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THE TIMES

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No. 66,000

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1997

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My wonder goal
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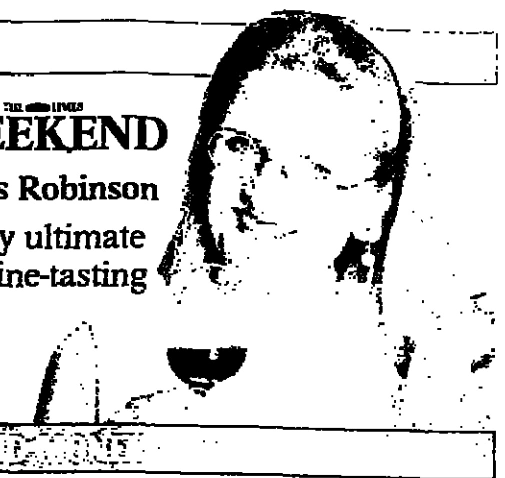
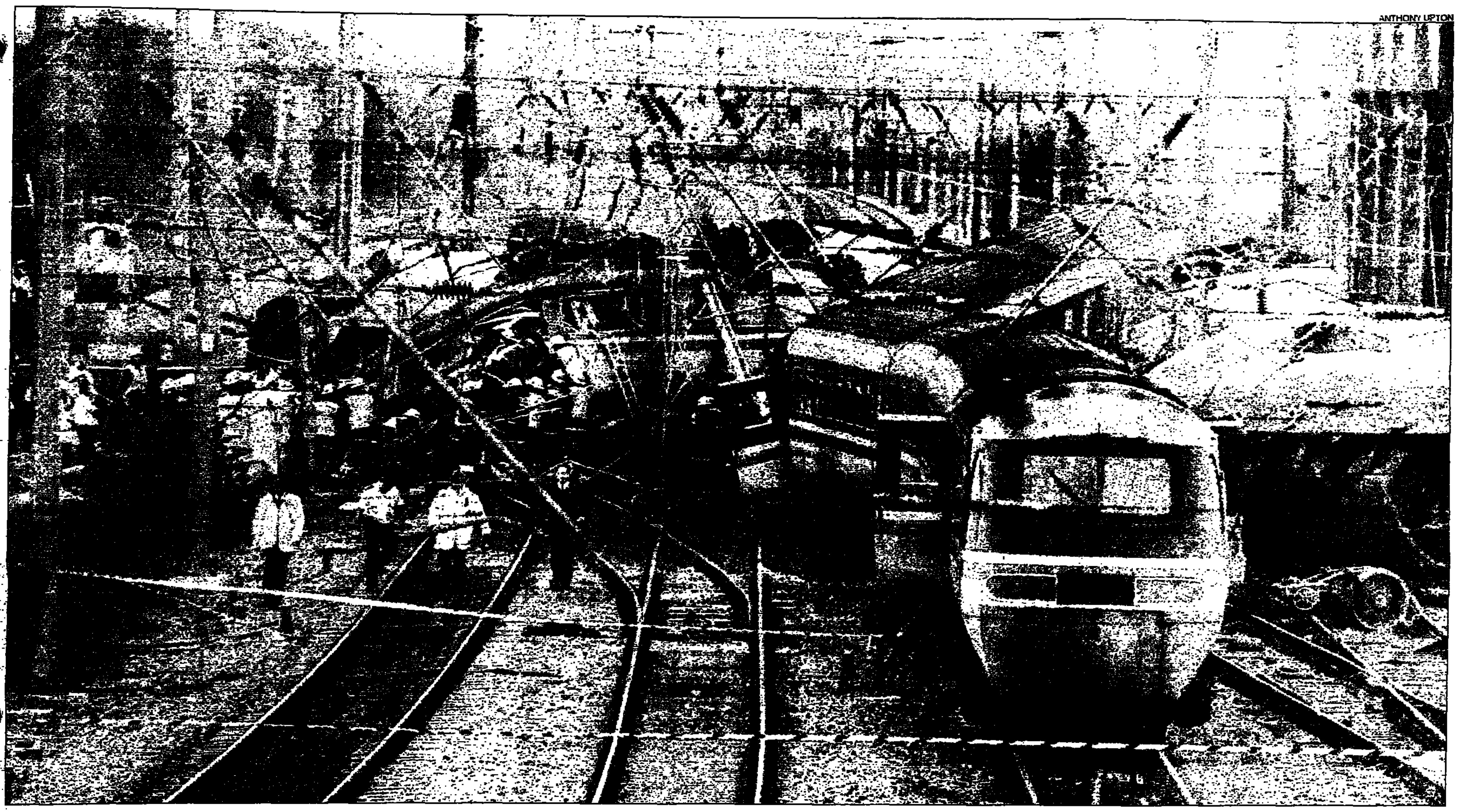
Jancis Robinson
My ultimate wine-tasting



MONDAY
THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10P EVERY MONDAY

[illegible] MAGAZINE, [illegible] FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS, CAR 97 AND THE AWARD-WINNING WEEKEND [illegible]

Six killed as trains collide



ANTHONY UPTON

Rescuers and an air ambulance helicopter alongside the wreckage of the Swansea to Paddington InterCity train yesterday. The Great Western 125 packed with passengers had just gone through Southall station in west London travelling at an estimated 90 mph

Drivers may hold key to crash

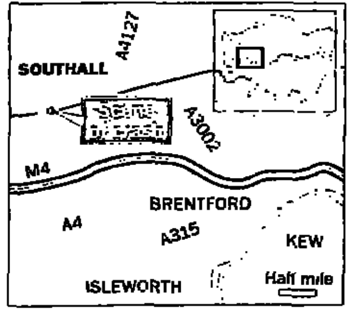
BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND DANIEL McGRORY

CRASH investigators were last night examining the twin theories that driver error or faulty signalling caused the high-speed rail crash which killed six and injured 170, 13 of whom were seriously ill in hospital last night.

The collision between an InterCity Swansea-London service and a freight train raised renewed concerns that little progress had been made to rail safety in the wake of the Clapham disaster nine years ago in which 35 died.

Both drivers survived and will be interviewed today if well enough to explain how the empty EWS frieght train was crossing the path of the crowded Great Western 125. The express had just gone through Southall station, west London, at 1.20pm travelling at an estimated 90 mph towards Paddington. Several carriages left the track and crumpled on to their side leaving passengers disorientated as acrid smoke from the burning locomotive filled the carriages.

Fire crews spent two hours cutting out some of the dead and injured. Survivors and walking wounded were in tears as they scrambled passed the bodies of some of the victims, who had been hurled from the express as it broke up on impact.



John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, arrived at the site while firemen were still removing the last of the victims. He said it was too early to identify the cause of the crash but said there would be a public inquiry by the Health and Safety Executive.

There will be a further separate investigation by Railtrack, who own the signalling and track, and another by British Transport Police who will decide whether there are grounds for manslaughter charges.

"I want first of all to express my condolences to the friends and relatives of those who have died or been injured in this terrible tragedy," Mr Prescott said. The Queen and Tony Blair were among those who sent their condolences last night.

Andy Hancock, acting director of Railtrack Great Western, said the InterCity engine and the two front first class carriages took the full impact of the collision on a stretch of track where the maximum speed was 120mph.

"It is far too early to speculate as to the cause of the incident. That is a matter for the investigation," he said.

He confirmed that Great Western trains were conducting a pilot study with Automatic Train Protection systems, but was unable to say whether such a system was "operable" on the InterCity train involved.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT rail union, indicated that the sell-off of British Rail two years ago could have contributed to the accident.

"One of the factors an inquiry should consider is whether the fragmentation of the railway industry was a contributory factor in the cause of the accident," Mr Knapp said.

Last night three of the survivors were undergoing surgery and were said to be "very seriously ill". One of the survivors told how he was lucky to be alive. Dr Michael Hellier, 55, from Aldborne, Wiltshire, suffered cuts to his head and scalp and there were fears that he might lose the sight of his right eye after he was thrown from his seat in a front carriage when the train crashed.

The consultant physician, who works for the NHS and is based at Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon, is one of three people being treated at Ealing Hospital.

The father of two, who also suffered one or two fractured ribs in the crash, was on his way to a council meeting for the British Society for Gastroenterology in London when the accident happened.

"I was in a front coach when there was a tremendous bang and everything went black," he said. "Something hit me very hard on the head which made me lose the vision in my right eye. I was thrown across the compartment as the coach rolled over, and my first thought was that I was dreaming; then I realised it was not a dream."

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WEEKEND

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MPs warn Blair on Welsh bill

Tony Blair promised to press ahead with legislation for setting up a Welsh assembly despite the narrow devolution vote. But some Labour MPs and peers said that they would oppose a Bill Page 14

Unionists meet Sinn Fein

At Stormont on Tuesday David Trimble will become the first Unionist leader to confront his Sinn Fein counterpart face-to-face ...... Page 4

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"Well, at least, it won't have anything to do with Alan Clark and William Hague"

Hague man walks out

THE bitter civil war between William Hague's advisers culminated last night in the resignation of Francis Halewood as the Conservatives' Director of Communications.

Mr Halewood's departure followed days of tension between Hague factions after allegations by the Tory leader that Tony Blair had sought to capitalise on the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

In a letter to *The Times*, today Alan Clark, MP for Kensington, accuses Mr Hague of trying to get a mandate for his reforms on the back of his endorsement as party leader..........Pages 4, 25

Prince Charles: game to join in the action

Prince Charles returns to duty with 'thank you'

THE Prince of Wales, in his first public appearance since the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday thanked the public on behalf of himself and his sons for the response to her death.

He joined in a game of basketball during a visit to a Salvation Army centre in Manchester.

In Paris, investigators said that the sole survivor of the crash in which the Princess died remembers nothing about the circumstances of the accident. The intial questioning of Trevor Rees-Jones, the Princess's 29-year-old bodyguard, confirmed fears that the key witness to the tragedy is suffering from partial amnesia. Mr Rees-Jones cannot recall anything after the Mercedes, driven by chauffeur Henri Paul, left the Paris Ritz on the night of the crash, police sources said. The chauffeur was later found to be well over the legal alcohol limit for driving.

Mr Rees-Jones mainly communicates by writing, said officials at Pitié-Saltpêtrière Hospital.

First outing, page 5
Fallen hero, page 16

Search centres on fail-safe computer

By Arthur Leathley and Kevin Eason

RAIL investigators began a painstaking search of the wreckage last night to discover whether a sophisticated computerised safety system designed to counter driver error was working.

The £700 million Automatic Train Protection system, one of the main recommendations of the inquiry into the Clapham train crash in which 35 people died, was rejected by the then Transport Secretary Dr Brian Mawhinney in 1995.

However, the system, which will prevent a driver overriding a red signal, has undergone trials over the past four years on the section of railway on which yesterday's accident happened. Although many of Great Western high-speed trains are fitted with the system, the company was unable to say last night whether it was in operation on the 10.32 Swansea-Paddington train. This will be one of the central points of the investigation by Railtrack and the Health and Safety Executive.

INVESTIGATION

Inspectors already know that the passenger train was able to travel at its maximum speed on the stretch of track. Although it had slowed down shortly before, experts believed it would have been travelling at 90mph, but could have been going as fast as 125mph. Such a speed would make it impossible to stop in less than 600 yards. The stretch of track in Southall in west London is one of dozens in London in which high-speed passenger trains neogiate routes criss-crossed by slow-moving goods trains.

The testimony of the two train drivers, who survived the crash, will provide crucial evidence to the two inquiries that are expected to take at least two months to complete.

The failure to introduce the automatic train protection system, widely used on the Continent, is one of the most controversial consequences of the Clapham rail accident. Rail unions have called repeatedly for trains to be given tHe additional protection, which has been installed on Eurostar trains using the Channel Tunnel. The system is also to be introduced on the West Coast main line service as it undergoes a £750 million improvement programme.

Cecil [now Lord] Parkinson, Transport Secretary at the time of the Clapham crash, had said "finance would not stand in the way" of any safety measures recommended in the wake of the accident. However, the trial of the system has been limited to the London-Bristol line and the Chiltern line, operating out of Marylebone station.

The system operates on both the track and train. Although the track is understood still to have the system in operation, there have been extensive probelms in its operation and consultants from Belgium have been called to investigate the problem. However, rail insiders made clear last night that the system only came into play when a signal was at red. Investigators began the painstaking process of establishing whether the worst train crash for eight years was caused by signal failure, driver error or track faults.

Railtrack inspectors were last night examining computerised records of how the signals were operating on one of the busiest stretches of line in the country.

Passengers on the ill-fated high-speed train were travelling in carriages with one of the best safety records on the railways. Radical changes were introduced to train design after safety fears over carriages manufactured in the 1960s and early 1970s.

The MkIII carriages on yesterday's train were designed with significant modifications to prevents deaths and injuries caused in the past. But safety experts said last night that the speed of the train was probably beyond the capability of the coaches to withstand the impact and huge deceleration.

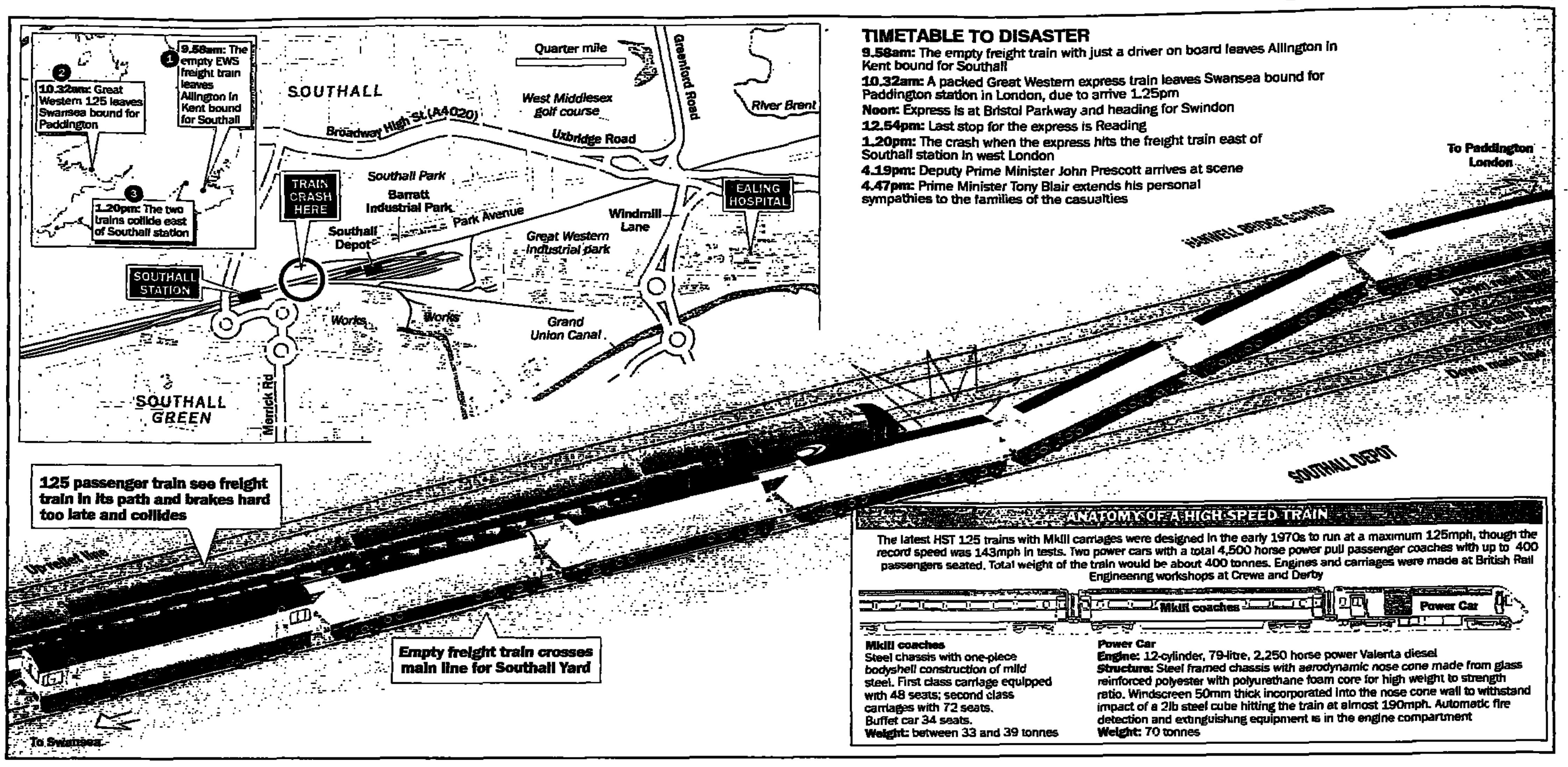
Fears that new train safety locks failed to work after the crash will be examined by the crash investigators. New locks were introduced last year which automatically lock during journeys and release or pop open in an emergency.

They should release within five seconds. Yesterday passengers reported locks in some carriages stuck.

Railways have come slowly to the idea of engineering safety into the rolling stock, unlike the motor industry. Rail engineers always worked on the basis that train crashes were few and far between which made expensive safety modifications uneconomic.

There were no seat belts to secure at the moment of impact and sudden deceleration. Death and injuries would probably have been caused either by crushing, which seat belts could not have prevented, or by standing passengers taking off at the moment of impact.

Andrew Evans, London Transport professor of transport safety, said last night: "These coaches have an extremely impressive safety record and the passengers were probably as well protected as they could be be in the circumstances. Travelling at 90mph though means that any measures would make it difficult to provide complete protection."


Quarter mile
SOUTHALL
West Middlesex golf course
Greenford Road
River Brent
Broadway High St (A4020)
Uxbridge Road
① 9.58am: The empty EWS freight train leaves Allington in Kent bound for Southall
② 10.32am: Great Western 125 leaves Swansea bound for Paddington
③ 1.20pm: The two trains collide east of Southall station
TRAIN CRASH HERE
Southall Park
Barratt Industrial Park
Park Avenue
EALING HOSPITAL
Windmill Lane
Southall Depot
Great Western Industrial park
SOUTHALL STATION
Works
Works
Grand Union Canal
SOUTHALL GREEN
Merrick Rd
125 passenger train see freight train in its path and brakes hard too late and collides
Empty freight train crosses main line for Southall Yard
To Swansea
To Paddington London
HANWELL BRIDGE SIDINGS
SOUTHALL DEPOT
MkIII coaches
Power Car

TIMETABLE TO DISASTER

9.58am: The empty freight train with just a driver on board leaves Allington in Kent bound for Southall

10.32am: A packed Great Western express train leaves Swansea bound for Paddington station in London, due to arrive 1.25pm

Noon: Express is at Bristol Parkway and heading for Swindon

12.54pm: Last stop for the express is Reading

1.20pm: The crash when the express hits the freight train east of Southall station in west London

4.19pm: Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott arrives at scene

4.47pm: Prime Minister Tony Blair extends his personal sympathies to the families of the casualties

ANATOMY OF A HIGH-SPEED TRAIN

The latest HST 125 trains with MkIII carriages were designed in the early 1970s to run at a maximum 125mph, though the record speed was 143mph in tests. Two power cars with a total 4,500 horse power pull passenger coaches with up to 400 passengers seated. Total weight of the train would be about 400 tonnes. Engines and carriages were made at British Rail Engineering workshops at Crewe and Derby

MkIII coaches
Steel chassis with one-piece bodyshell construction of mild steel. First class carriage equipped with 48 seats; second class carriages with 72 seats.
Buffet car 34 seats.
Weight: between 33 and 39 tonnes

Power Car
Engine: 12-cylinder, 79-litre, 2,250 horse power Valenta diesel
Structure: Steel framed chassis with aerodynamic nose cone made from glass reinforced polyester with polyurethane foam core for high weight to strength ratio. Windscreen 50mm thick incorporated into the nose cone wall to withstand impact of a 2lb steel cube hitting the train at almost 190mph. Automatic fire detection and extinguishing equipment is in the engine compartment
Weight: 70 tonnes

This London Ambulance Service picture shows firefighters attempting to free a trapped passenger yesterday

Disaster plan goes into action at four London hospitals

By Nigel Hawkes

THE injured were treated at four hospitals within three miles of the scene, as emergency procedures swung into operation.

Ealing Hospital took 11 casualties, six with major injuries and five less serious. The Central Middlesex Hospital in Park Royal, Hillingdon Hospital and the Isleworth-based West Middlesex Hospital all took less seriously-injured patients.

Two people with serious injuries were taken by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, while one with serious head injuries was taken to Charing Cross Hospital in Hammersmith.

The major incident plan prepared for just such an emergency was triggered when Railtrack alerted the London Ambulance Service. Local hospitals and specialist neurological and burns units were told to be ready, as police cleared roads for the ambulances to ferry the injured to hospitals.

London Ambulance Service control officer Mark Purcell said: "Ealing Hospital was put on red alert and warned to expect the majority of the most serious injuries. It went very, very well and the police did an excellent job in keeping the roads clear for the ambulances which helped speed up the operation."

If an accident has to happen, Friday lunchtime is in many ways the best time as no admissions, except emergencies, are made until Monday. But the staff are still on duty.

At Ealing Hospital, up to 30 seriously-injured people were expected and dozens of doctors were on standby. In the event, only 11 were treated, none with life-threatening injuries. At least three were to be kept in overnight.

Dr Michael Rudolf, medical director of Ealing Hospital, said extra doctors were drafted in, as well as more blood supplies. The hospital's six operating theatres were on standby, with three ready for use at any time.

At nearby Hillingdon Hospital, the first casualties arrived just after 3pm. It treated ten patients, the most seriously-injured with broken legs, broken ribs and a chest injury. The other casualties had minor injuries, including broken and fractured bones, cuts and bruises.

Accident and emergency consultant Dr Chuck Merrill said: "We had a very good response from staff. We were quite well prepared and it went very, very well from our point of view."

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Central Middlesex dealt with six casualties, four with minor injuries who were soon released, and two others who were admitted overnight — a woman with a broken collarbone, and a man with chest injuries.

A hospital spokesman said: "Everybody was ready. Everybody was extremely calm and all our facilities were ready. We could have dealt with a much worse scenario if it had been necessary."

All NHS hospitals are expected to prepare plans for dealing with disasters in their area. These include detailed procedures for alerting doctors, clearing beds, preparing operating theatres, providing support to the emergency services on the scene if required, and providing supplies such as blood.

Such plans are regularly rehearsed to ensure that when a disaster actually happens, all goes as it should.

First reactions suggest that plans went well, but that would not invariably be the case, according to a recent study carried out by Dr Simon Carley, of the Accident and Emergency Department at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Under NHS guidelines issued in 1990, large regional hospitals should have mobile medical teams ready to offer instant back-up to the emergency services, with specific roles and training for the medical "flying squads" set out.

But Dr Carley's research showed that of 150 large hospitals, only a third of the teams contained both a surgeon and an anaesthetist. In almost half of the teams, the leader was a junior doctor, and members of teams were invariably junior doctors with little experience.

A major problem in previous disasters has been the failure of co-ordination between different bodies at the scene of disasters. In 1992 the King's Fund, an independent centre for health policy analysis, criticised the response to five major disasters — the King's Cross fire, the Clapham, Purley and Cannon Street rail crashes, and the Marchioness riverboat sinking.

One major criticism made in the report was that hospital teams are used too frequently at the scene of the accident, when they are better employed back at their hospitals. On this occasion, this advice seems to have been followed.

Opponents of sell-off feared for safety

By Richard Ford

EVER since the Conservative Government pledged to sell of the rail system, opponents have argued that privatisation would compromise safety for passengers.

The issue of putting profits before safety became the key battleground between the Tories and their opponents in the unions and Labour Party in the run-up to privatisation.

PRIVATISATION

Several BR managers said that safety would be compromised when responsibility for safety was split between private train companies, Railtrack, the track owner, and dozens of service companies contracted to maintain 23,000 miles of rail and signalling.

The key fear was that contracting out would involve firms unused to railway workings and that safe working practices might be cast aside. Others, however, dismissed the unions' arguments as no more than the cry of a vested interest under attack.

Vernon Hince, assistant general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union (RMT), said that the "fragmentation of the industry will lead to a critical breakdown in the safety chain of command". During the privatisation debate a series of leaked documents appeared to highlight the erosion of the safety culture on Britain's railways though the Health and Safety Executive and Transport Department insisted that was no evidence of an overall deterioration in Railtrack's safety standards.

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of RMT, indicated yesterday that the sell-off of British Rail two years ago could have contributed to the Southall accident. But Conservatives rejected such suggestions as "plain silly", and they were also played down by the Transport Department.

Mr Knapp said: "One of the factors an inquiry should consider is whether the fragmentation of the railway industry was a contributory factor in the cause of the accident." The inquiry should pay particular attention to the role that the automatic train protection (ATP) system — which stops trains passing signals at red — could play in the prevention of accidents, Mr Knapp added.

SHARE FALL

As news of the crash filtered through to the stock market yesterday, shares in Railtrack, which owns the railway infrastructure, saw early gains wiped out. Earlier, the price touched 855p, its highest since joining the stock market in May last year. It quickly went into reverse, touching 829p before rallying to reduce the fall on the day to 11½p at 833p, as almost five million shares changed hands.

Railtrack took over responsibility for all track, signalling and infrastructure in 1993, and was floated on the stock market in May last year. Figures produced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show a decline in the number of train accident fatalities and passenger train collisions since 1994/95. Fatalities that year numbered 12 and 7 in 1995/96. Up to yesterday the provisional figure for 1196/97 was one death.

Richard Hope, consultant to the *Railway Gazette*, said: "Much more attention has been given to safety processes since 1988. We are seeing, as a result, that rail safety is better than it has ever been."

He said that the latest published figures did not support Labour Party and trade union fears that safety was being compromised. The figures from the HSE show that the number of significant train accidents fell from 237 in 1977 to 200 in 1987 to 105 in 1996-97.

THE WORST CRASH SINCE CLAPHAM JUNCTION

THE crash yesterday is the most serious in Britain since the Clapham Junction disaster in December 1988 in which 35 people were killed and 113 injured when two commuter trains collided when a driver correctly stopped to report a faulty signal. A third train crashed into the wreckage moments later, killing more passengers. The signal was found to have been wrongly rewired.

Britain's worst rail crash happened in 1915 when a troop-carrying train ploughed into a passenger train at Quintinshill, near Gretna in Scotland. Three more trains crashed into the wreckage and 227 people died, including 200 officers and men of the 7th Royal Scots. The worst disaster since the Second World War occurred at Harrow and Wealdstone, north London, in 1952, when 112 people were killed and 340 injured in a three-train collision. Britain's most famous railway disaster claimed 78 lives in 1879, when the Tay Bridge in Scotland collapsed under the weight of the Edinburgh to Dundee express.

The world's worst railway disaster is thought to have happened in India in June 1981, when an overcrowded carriage plunged into the River Bagmati when the driver braked suddenly to avoid running down a cow, sacred to the Hindus. Rescuers eventually found 268 bodies, but investigators estimated the total number dead at more than 800. As many as 800 people were killed in Chelyabinsk, in June 1989 when two trans-Siberian express trains packed with holidaymakers on their way to the Black Sea coast were blown up when liquid gas escaped from a pipeline and ignited.

Yesterday's crash happened two miles from a 1973 accident in which 10 people were killed and 94 injured. A London to Oxford express was derailed at Ealing when an open battery box door hit a signal control box.

In 1991, four were killed and 22 injured in a head-on collision on a single-track line outside Newton station, Glasgow, and a passenger was killed and 248 injured at Cannon Street station in London when a commuter train ran into buffers.

DIANA
Write Your Own Tribute
You are invited to write your own tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales... a piece of prose or verse imaginatively celebrating her life (possibly an aspect of her charitable work) or marking her passing (such as your thoughts on seeing her hearse). The invitation is made by the David Thomas Charitable Trust whose primary purpose is to encourage creative writing as a means of expression, and is offering £500 in cash to the outright winner, plus £100 runner-up for both prose and verse, to you or if you prefer her memorial fund.
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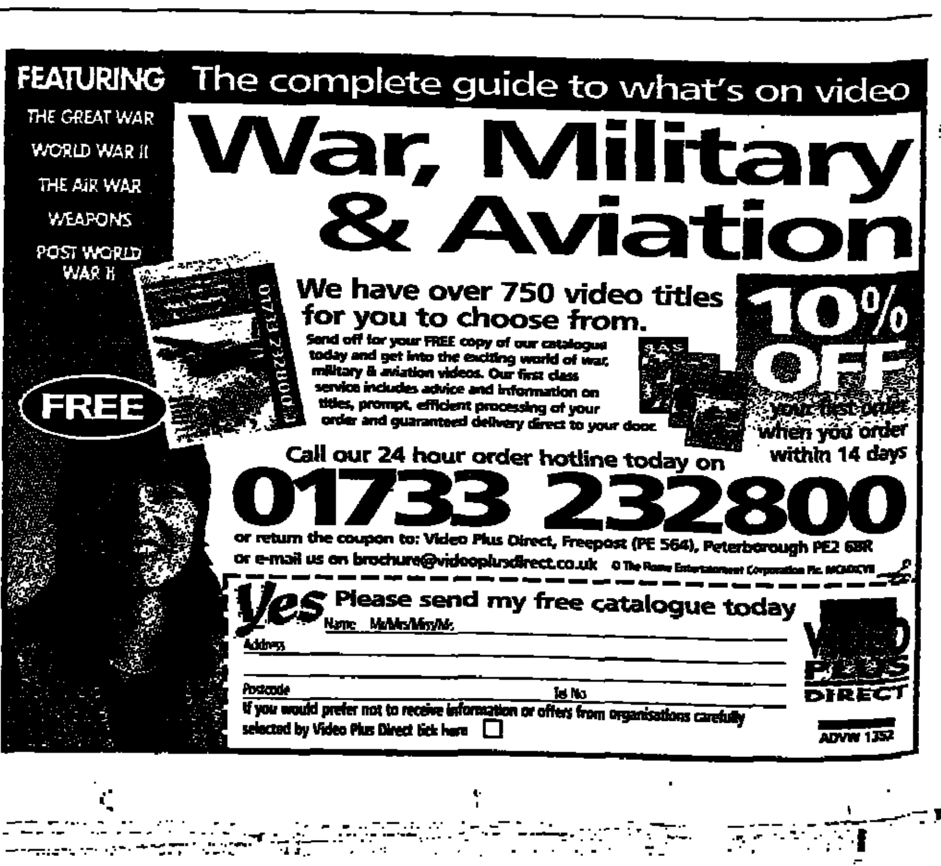
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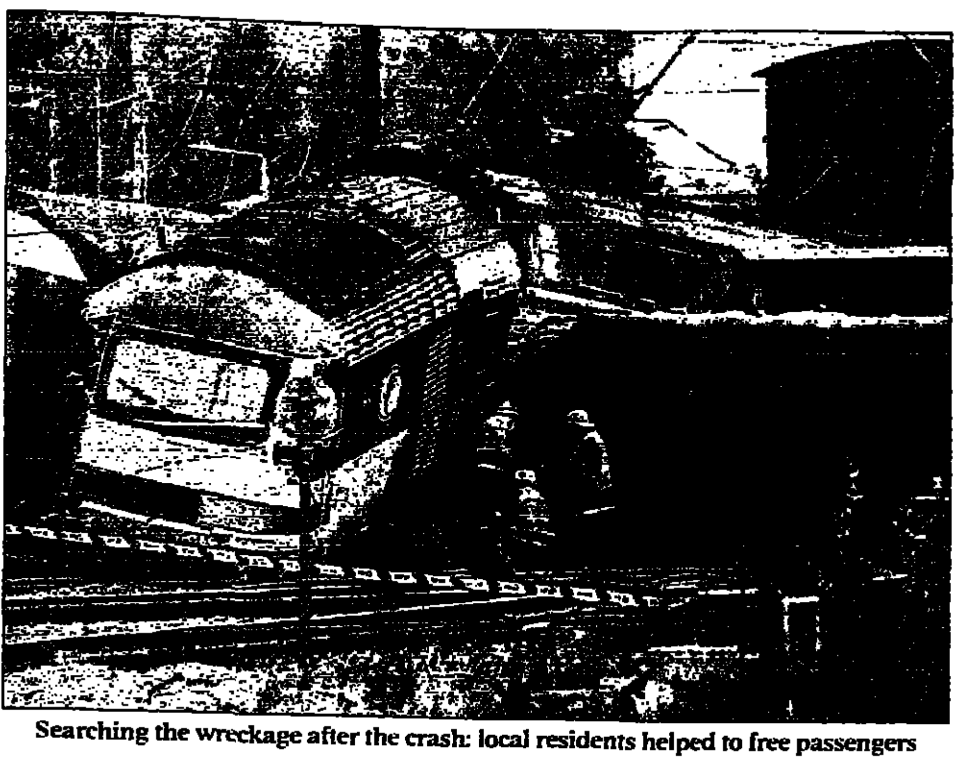


Searching the wreckage after the crash: local residents helped to free passengers

Trapped in the dark, people were crying: Please help us

PHOTOGRAPHS: LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE

Rescue workers carrying one of the injured away from the scene. Hospitals were alerted and moved into a well-rehearsed disaster drill

The 10.32 Great Western express eased out of Swansea precisely on time for the three-hour journey to London. At the start of the journey, only about 30 passengers had joined the train. By the time it reached its first stop at Cardiff 20 minutes later, there was a crush of passengers waiting on the platform.

Many were journalists who had worked late into Thursday night covering the devolution vote. The train became so crowded that not everyone could get a seat. Mark Cole, a BBC reporter, said: "Some were standing in the aisles. Others were perched on the edge of seats, or sitting at the end of the carriages."

Some moved forward to empty seats in the first-class carriages. Stewards, pushing resfreshment trolleys found their path blocked by the throng of passengers. As the express accelerated to around 125mph, many of those on board, Mr Cole included, were dozing.

The train reached Reading on time and had pulled out for the final stretch towards Paddington, when it braked violently. It was 1.20pm. Celia Ellacott, a Channel 4 journalist, said: "When the train slowed down and started juddering, the thought flashed through my mind that we might crash and then suddenly it just happened. It was terrifying."

One businessman said: "It jumped the tracks and cantilevered on to its side. The windows started to shatter. Debris from the other train started to hit us. Dark black smoke filled the carriage, making people very scared."

Mr Cole woke up as the train "seemed to pick up speed and within seconds had left the track — glass was flying through the windows. The carriage I was in veered off. It caught fire. There was smoke everywhere. People started to panic." Nick Sutton, a BBC researcher, was in a lavatory cubicle and was thrown back against the wall. As acrid smoke engulfed the carriages, guard's voice coming over the intercom. Outside power cables were crackling as they fell beside the windows, flashing above the carriages. The guard warned of the danger of the cables: "Don't run. Don't jump out." He asked passengers to move goward the back of the train.

THE SURVIVORS

In the darkness, people were crying. Some had cuts from flying glass. Passengers stood in the dark, queueing to be released: the doors were locked. Luggage had been thrown across the compartments, hitting trvaellers and making escape more difficult. Many helped those cut by flying glass to stanch the flow of blood.

Mr Cole said that eventually the only way out was by pushing out the remaining glass from a windows, climbing up and jumping the 10ft to the ground as the carriage rested on its side: "People were in a bad state, and the doors would not open. We had to climb out of the windows and jump down. It was pretty bad, a lot of people had been cut by flying glass."

Chris Dixey, 50, an engineer from near Canterbury, in Kent, was in the third crashed carriage, which was on its side. About 30 people were with him, many of them elderly: "There were a lot of people shouting, then one man said to people to stay in their seats because it was on its side." Mr Dixey tried to break a window, but it would not smash.

"There was a flash of fire, then it went out, but I was worried about fire," he said. "Eventually we got a door open. There were some plain clothes policemen at the side of the track who arrived very quickly. They helped the old people out. They were very good."

Ms Ellacott said: "When we got out we were told to mind the overhead cables. We climbed out and looked forward and saw that the engine was in flames."

As the first survivors hauled themselves through the broken windows and slithered down the outside of the carriages, they were confronted by the sight of the bodies that had been flung from the ruptured carriage. Mr Sutton said: "As I walked off the train, I saw a body lying by the side of the tracks. No one was touching it. His shirt was ripped and there was blood all over him."

Mr Cole said bodies were lying broken by the track: "I saw two or three fatalities. They were on the track in front of me by the first-class carriage. The engine was on its side and on fire. There was great concern that the trin itself was not safe at that time."

Local residents were running to help. Manjit Singh, who lives in Park Avenue, backing on to the railway line, ran to the trackside with a friend, Tony Mair. They saw the driver of the express, sitting stunned and shocked on the track beside the shattered diesel cab.

"I grabbed him and asked him if he was all right. He said 'What has happened?' He was all black from the smoke. From the second carriage were cries of 'help, help, help'. There were a lot of injured people, everyone was just saying, 'Help us, help us'. We were trying to get people out from the rear carriages and they had to go past these bodies. People got hysterical. We got curtains and things that were lying around and covered up their heads and faces."

Rajinder Vagarwall, a coach company owner, described how with four neighbours they tore down a fence to get to the injured: "We pushed down the wire-mesh fence to get to the track. We went to the first carriage and people were shouting and screaming, but they were too badly stuck to get out so we had to go to the second.

"There we helped out three Chinese people — two men and a woman. There was also an old lady of 80 and her sister, who were too shaken to come out at first. We managed to guide them out and later took them to our house."

As fire crews and paramedics descended on the crash site the local major disaster plan went into action. A mile from Southall station at Ealing hospital, the casualty department was cleared, wards were emptied, operating theatres were put on standby and all operations were cancelled as Dr Michael Rudolf, the medical director, and his staff waited for the injured.

"We had been warned by police that it was carnage out there, similar to that of an air crash," he said. At the Middlesex Hospital, a spokesman said they had been told to expect large numbers of the less seriously injured passengers: "Its something we practise for."

The walking wounded were led through a park, many carrying what luggage they could salvage. Some were wrapped in orange blankets and were taken to a school. Harjeet Singh Jagdev, 37, a housewife in Park Avenue, said: "People were letting the injured into their houses and getting out the first aid kits. Some ladies were screaming and crying."

Her son, Rajdeep, 12, a pupil at Villiers High School, where many of the injured were taken, said: "I had just got back to school after lunch and there was an announcement from our teachers telling us to go home because there had been an accident. Some of the pupils stayed to help the injured people."

Pupils helped give tea and biscuits to the walking wounded. The school, which is just 500 yards from the scene of the crash, is a recognised emergency centre. Dai Jones, a senior member of staff, said he was enormously pleased with the way his pupils coped sensitively with the injured: "They were absolutely marvellous. I am very proud."

Rail chiefs helped the injured

Richard George

THE managing director of Great Western Trains, Richard George, and the commercial manager of Railtrack, Richard Middleton, were among passengers in one of the first class coaches which bore some of the worst of the impact.

Mr George, 41, escaped without injury and immediately set about helping his injured fellow passengers. A GWT spokeswoman said: "Mr George helped other passengers as soon as he could. It is the sort of thing he would do."

Passengers told how Mr George called out for everyone trapped in the compartment to remain calm. He warned them not to try to push their way out while power cables were still coming down around the carriages.

Cambridge University-educated Mr George, who lives in Bath and has two children, was promoted to managing director from the post of franchise development director just six months ago. Earlier in his career he was responsible for InterCity fleet and services.

The men, who were returning from a business trip, were badly shaken and shocked but not seriously hurt in the crash. A Railtrack spokeswoman said: "I know that Mr Middleton has remained at the crash scene to assist with the investigation."

Railtrack chairman Sir Robert Horton said his thoughts went out to those involved and anxious friends and relatives waiting for news. He said: "We have already begun a full and thorough investigation and Railtrack's Chief Executive, John Edmonds, is at the site with senior industry executives.

"Anything at this point which suggests a cause of the accident is speculation."

Reporter on board broke news on air

Jane Garvey

USING a mobile phone on board the train, Jane Garvey, the presenter of Radio 5 Live's breakfast programme, gave a first person account of the crash and its aftermath live on radio.

Ms Garvey checked to see if she could help anyone, then rang work to get the story on air. She was travelling in the first-class carriages which took the brunt of the crash, but not as far forward as those people who lost their lives.

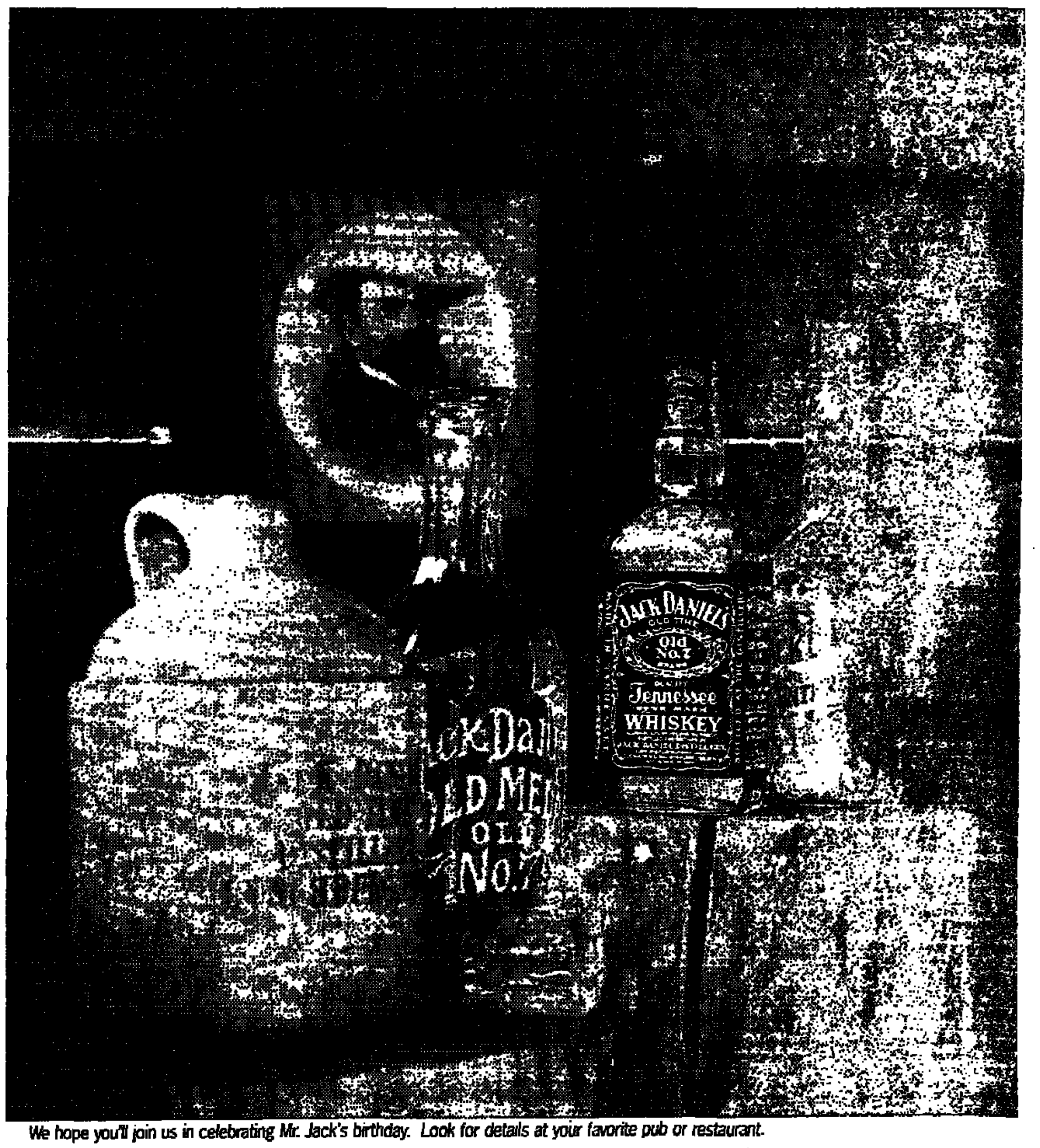
Only minutes after the crash she told Radio 5 Live listeners: "There is billowing smoke, very acrid, it stinks. I can see bits of twisted metal, which must be carriages, and people's possessions and chairs all over the track. It is total and utter chaos."

Miss Garvey, 32, who was travelling to her home in Islington, North London, after presenting a programme in Wales, said the train had been travelling quickly after leaving Reading station about 15 minutes before the crash. "I think at the very least, people are very badly hurt. We are absolutely petrified but unhurt. We are in the first-class carriage, which we shouldn't even have been in, but it has probable saved our lives."

Later, after leaving the train, she said: "The smell of smoke flooded the whole area, carriages started to fill up with smoke. Police appeared quite quickly, within moments. They were clearly worried about the power lines."

She said she overheard somebody she took to be the driver talking to police. "He was very, very shaken. He was telling the police he was going at 125mph and certainly, when I got off, three front carriages were very badly damaged and a fourth was sliced in two."

Reporting team: Kevin Eason, Stephen Farrell, Richard Ford, Mark Henderson, Michael Horsnell, Lin Jenkins, Tim Jones, Katherine Knight, Arthur Leathley, Daniel McGrory, Helen Rumbelow, Stewart Tendler, Emma Wilkins, Nicholas Wood



We hope you'll join us in celebrating Mr. Jack's birthday. Look for details at your favorite pub or restaurant.

THIS SEPTEMBER marks Mr. Jack Daniel's 151st birthday. Or maybe, as some say, his 147th.

The exact date of our founder's birth remains a mystery to this day (folks weren't too good at keeping records in those days). Some in Lynchburg say he was born in 1850, others claim it was 1846. While no one is exactly sure just when Mr. Jack was born, those who enjoy a smooth sippin' Tennessee Whiskey, we believe, are mighty glad he was.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

THE TIMES
on Monday

Sport

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16-page supplement

LONDON TRIATHLON: RESULTS IN FULL

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Trimble to face Adams at Belfast peace talks

By Martin Fletcher, chief Ireland correspondent

DAVID TRIMBLE will become the first Unionist leader in Northern Ireland's 76-year history to confront a Sinn Fein leader face to face in talks.

Mr Trimble's encounter with Gerry Adams on Tuesday will take place at Stormont when the Ulster Unionist Party leader argues for Sinn Fein's expulsion from the peace negotiations. Ulster Unionist sources said that Mr Trimble did not plan to shake Mr Adams's hand, speak to him directly nor begin any form of negotiation.

He would make his case to George Mitchell, the talks chairman, and then probably leave before Mr Adams responded. But other political sources said the meeting's confrontational nature would give Mr Trimble the political cover he needs to break Unionism's oldest taboo and take the crucial last step towards rejoining the multi-party negotiations.

Mr Adams said if that was "the ticket for him to get into these talks then fair enough . . . We will put up with that rather than squander an unprecedented opportunity for peace." Mr Trimble will cite this week's Markethill bomb and the IRA's disavowal of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence as grounds to eject Sinn Fein but the British and Irish Governments are hardly going to back expulsion having spent months coaxing it to the table.

Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, said yesterday that the Dublin Government, after consulting security forces on both sides of the border, had found no evidence to show the IRA was involved in the Markethill attack. The blast was seen as an attempt to sabotage the talks process.

Next Tuesday's encounter will be the latest in a series of breakthroughs that have included the first live debate on British television between Unionist and Sinn Fein MPs — Ken Maginnis and Martin McGuinness — the first meeting between Ulster Unionist Party leaders and the Roman Catholic Church, and Sinn Fein's invitation to full-scale peace talks.

Mr Trimble recently called the idea of meeting Mr Adams "repulsive" and observers will be fascinated to see whether that abstract loathing survives if Mr Trimble and Mr Adams regularly find themselves in the same room.

Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, met Mr Adams yesterday in Dublin's government buildings to review progress in the peace talks. They also discussed the release and transfer of republican prisoners in British and Irish jails. Both sides described their discussions as "constructive and positive".

Mr Ahern recently met the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party and met the moderate Alliance Party yesterday afternoon. Dublin sources say that behind-the-scenes contacts are under way to try to arrange a meeting with Unionists "in the near future". The BBC yesterday unveiled the first programme in a four-part documentary about the Provisional IRA in which Sean MacStiofain, its former chief of staff, is said unequivocally to confirm that Mr Adams was a top IRA official.

When Peter Taylor, presenter of *Provos: The IRA and Sinn Fein*, asks if Mr Adams and five other republicans secretly summoned to meet William Whitelaw, then Northern Ireland Secretary, in London in 1972 were all IRA members, Mr MacStiofain answers "Yes. Not Sinn Fein, but IRA."

The Irish National Liberation Army, a republican splinter group, claimed that it had thrown a hand grenade at a Londonderry police station on Thursday night. It failed to detonate.

David Trimble, left, will meet Gerry Adams but is not expected to shake his hand or speak to him directly

NEWS IN BRIEF

Blunkett seeks pay restraint in schools

David Blunkett advised the teachers' pay review body that schools' recruitment difficulties did not warrant a salary increase above inflation. The Education Secretary's submission came as the three main classroom unions claimed a substantial increase. He told the review body that teachers' earnings had outstripped those of comparable groups in recent years and there was no case for a "catching-up" rise. He recommended a "moderate overall increase in line with other public-sector staff".

Son charged

A youth of 17, alleged to have attacked his mother, has been charged under new anti-stalking legislation with aggressive and abusive behaviour. Police believe the Protection from Harassment Act could also be used to curb violent husbands.

DNA triumph

Four Derbyshire men were convicted of killing a badger after DNA from the animal matched blood on a knife and overalls found on the men. They were Garry Shaw, 26, Russell Pettipierre, 37, David Wragg, 32, and Michael Holland, 32.

Shotgun killing

A teenager was shot dead on her doorstep by her former fiancé, who later rang the police to confess the killing before turning the shotgun on himself. Heidi Hickmott, 19, had recently broken her six-year engagement to Michael Herd, 27.

Roped off

The "child's handprint" painting of Myra Hindley, damaged by ink and eggs thrown by two protesters, remained on view at the Royal Academy but only from behind a rope. It will be removed today for restoration before going back on show.

Cow slip

A cow spent 24 hours in the Irish Sea after falling 150ft from a cliff on the Lleyn, North Wales. High tides saved the Welsh Black from landing on rocks, but currents swept it out to sea. A lifeboat and fishing boat eventually headed it back to land.

Clark attacks Hague on ballot

By Jill Sherman and Andrew Pierce

WILLIAM HAGUE comes under attack today from Alan Clark, the Conservative MP, over his decision to ballot the party on his proposed reforms.

In a letter to *The Times*, Mr Clark, the unpredictable member for Kensington and Chelsea, accuses Mr Hague of trying to get a mandate for his reforms — many of which are opposed by Tory MPs — on the back of his endorsement as party leader. Mr Clark, a member of the executive of the Tory 1922 backbench committee, is the first senior backbencher to publicly make his views known on the joint ballot, but it is understood that some other members of the committee and several backbenchers share his views.

The move comes at the end of a week when Mr Hague's leadership abilities have been criticised. Lord Tebbit, the former party chairman, criticised Mr Hague for accusing Tony Blair of making political capital out of the funeral of the Princess of Wales. Lord Parkinson, the present chairman, declined to endorse his leader's comments.

In his letter, Mr Clark opposes the decision to send out a ballot paper with only one question — on the endorsement of Mr Hague as party leader and the principles of his reforms.

"So the whole Conservative party is being told, ahead of any detailed debate, to confer a blank cheque on a small coterie of management consultants to proceed as they think fit," he said.

One senior member of the committee said, however: "The party is not being bounced into policy changes which will be set in concrete."

War of Hague's Ear, page 20
Letters, page 25

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Prince thanks public for their sympathy

JOHN GILES/PA

The Prince joining in a game of basketball at the Salvation Army centre on his visit to Manchester

On his first public appearance since the funeral, the Prince of Wales praised his sons, writes **Alan Hamilton**

THE Prince of Wales, in his first public appearance since the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday offered the heartfelt thanks of himself and his sons for the public response to the Princess's death.

Speaking in Manchester, the Prince said that the torrent of tributes and some 250,000 letters of condolence from around the world had helped enormously at an extraordinarily difficult time. He also praised Prince William and Prince Harry for handling their mother's death and its associated events with courage and dignity.

On the Princess's death the Prince cancelled all his public engagements, including visits to Berlin, Prague and Salzburg. However, he chose a longstanding promise to attend charity events in the North West to mark a return to normal business and to speak for the first time about the death of his former wife. He made up his mind last week to fulfil the engagement.

The Prince, looking composed, chose a gathering of businessmen in Manchester to make public his gratitude, knowing that there was a substantial media presence in the room. He was warmly applauded, and many of the 300-strong crowd in the street offered their good wishes to himself and his sons.

"I wanted to say how particularly moved and enormously comforted my children and I were, and indeed still are, by the public response to Diana's death," the Prince told his audience. "It really has been quite remarkable, and in many ways overwhelming, too. Probably many of you will know from personal experiences of family loss in your own lives that it is difficult to cope with grief at any time, but it is even harder when the whole world is watching.

"I cannot tell you how enormously grateful and touched both the boys and myself have been. I am unbelievably proud of William and Harry. It is quite remarkable, and they have handled an extraordinarily difficult time with enormous courage and the greatest possible dignity."

The boys were coping very well, the Prince said. "But obviously Diana's death and loss has been an enormous loss, as far as they and I are concerned, and I will always feel that loss."

The young Princes had been hugely comforted by the enormous numbers of letters of condolence. "These letters have meant a huge amount to us, and have made such a difference. We are immensely grateful," the Prince said, before launching a fundraising initiative for community youth projects in the region under Business in the Community, one of his charities.

Charles Allen, chief executive of Granada Television, who introduced the Prince, expressed Manchester's gratitude at his decision to visit the city at a time of such grief, sorrow and loss.

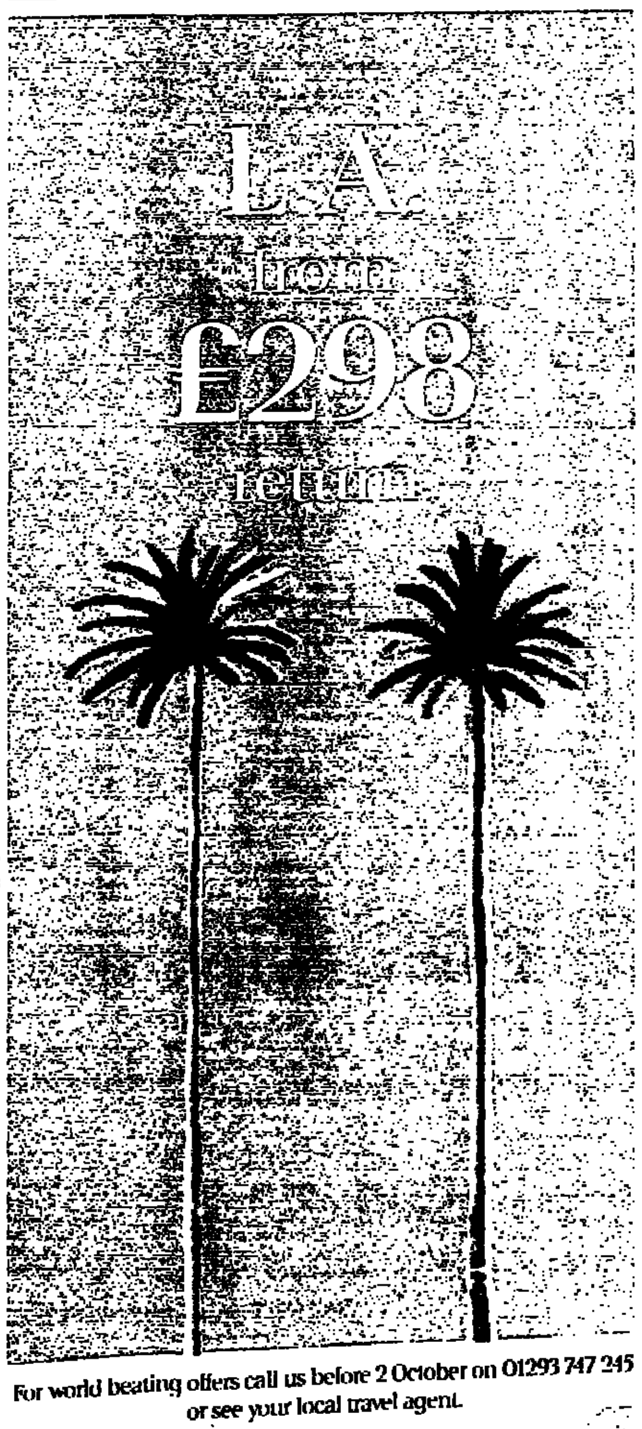
The Prince also visited Manchester Royal Infirmary to talk to staff and patients and to launch a £500,000 appeal to provide three more Macmillan cancer nurses. He spent the afternoon at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground to hear progress on an initiative to draw recruits into the Prince's Trust Volunteers. At present, 9,000 people a year join the scheme to work on community projects.

Irene Robinson, 4, giving the Prince a posie on his visit to the drop-in centre

The Prince met Martin Edwards, Manchester United chairman, Alex Ferguson, its manager, Sir John Quinton, Premier League chairman, and officials from other clubs taking part: Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield Wednesday, Aston Villa, West Ham and Arsenal. They will publicise the volunteers in their literature and encourage young people to visit their favourite club in the hope of being persuaded to join.

Wherever the Prince went, people offered their condolences on the death of the Princess. On the streets the the crowds were thin, but there was no shortage of well-wishers. Outside his first stop, a Salvation Army drop-in centre, he spoke to Patricia Beacock, 62, who expressed sorrow at the Princess's death and asked for her regards to be passed to his sons.

Later, the Prince visited Houldsworth Mill, in Reddish, near Stockport. The mill, built in 1805, is being considered for conversion into an art gallery and further education and community business centre by the Prince's Business in the Community charity.



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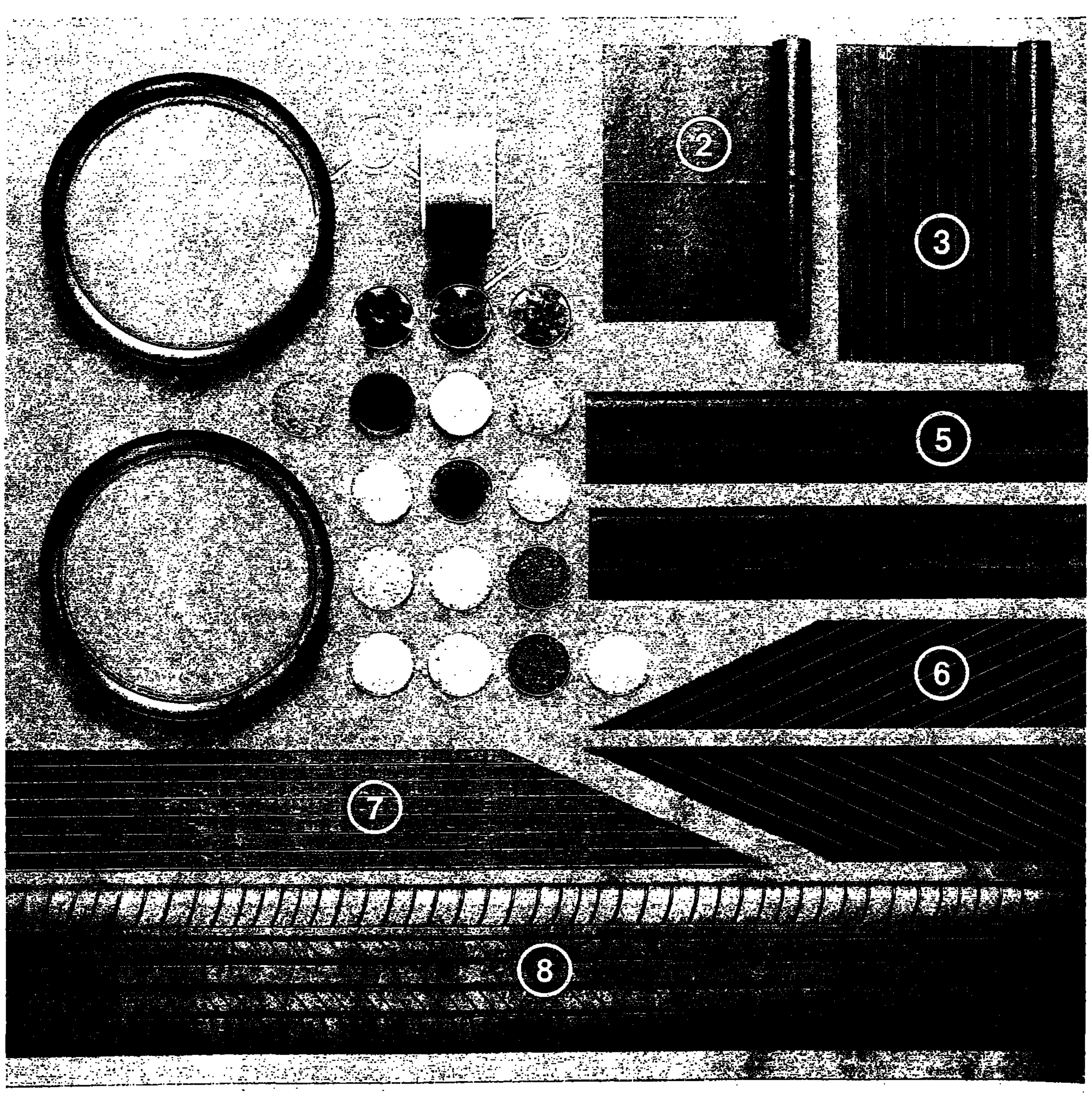

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1. First make your basic rubber compound using natural and synthetic rubber, sulphur, resin, aromatic oil, carbon black, stearic acid, cobalt stearate, wax and a unique blend of vulcanisation and anti-oxidant chemicals. These are probably not the sort of ingredients your have at home – unless you're a Continental tyre engineer. Mix, then test (but don't taste) for consistency.
2. Make an airtight inner liner by rolling butyl rubber into a wide thin layer and trim. This will ensure your tyre rises nicely and doesn't go flat.
3. In a calendering machine, make body plies to form the tyre's carcass. The carcass gives the tyre its strength and also cushions you, even on roads lumpier and bumpier than German custard.
4. With brass-coated steel cords, form a circle to make the tyre 'beads'. These will make sure your tyre sits securely on the wheel rims.
5. Take two strips of rubber and form the outer sidewalls. These protect tyres from bangs and scrapes, and the chemicals added earlier help reduce the harmful effects of ozone and the sun. (Our engineers hate to see their pride and joy looking anything less than perfect.)
6. Now cover brass-coated steel with rubber to make belt plies. Place under the tread, to provide longer life and a better shape. Not what you normally associate with German cooking.
7. Make the cap plies by embedding nylon in rubber to form a bandage over the belt plies and under the tread. This improves high speed handling and stability.
8. To make the tread, add chemicals and stir into the basic rubber compound. Heat and pass through an extruder.

You'll now need your tyre building machines. Combine the bead, inner liner, carcass, sidewalls, belt plies and tread. Spray the outside of the tyre with lubricant and the inside with silicon.

Place in a vulcanising mould and cook for 10 minutes at 150°C and 12 bar of pressure. Remove and leave to cool. You've now made a very tasty Continental tyre.

Of course, if you can't be bothered with all the preparation, you can always get a takeaway from your local tyre dealer.

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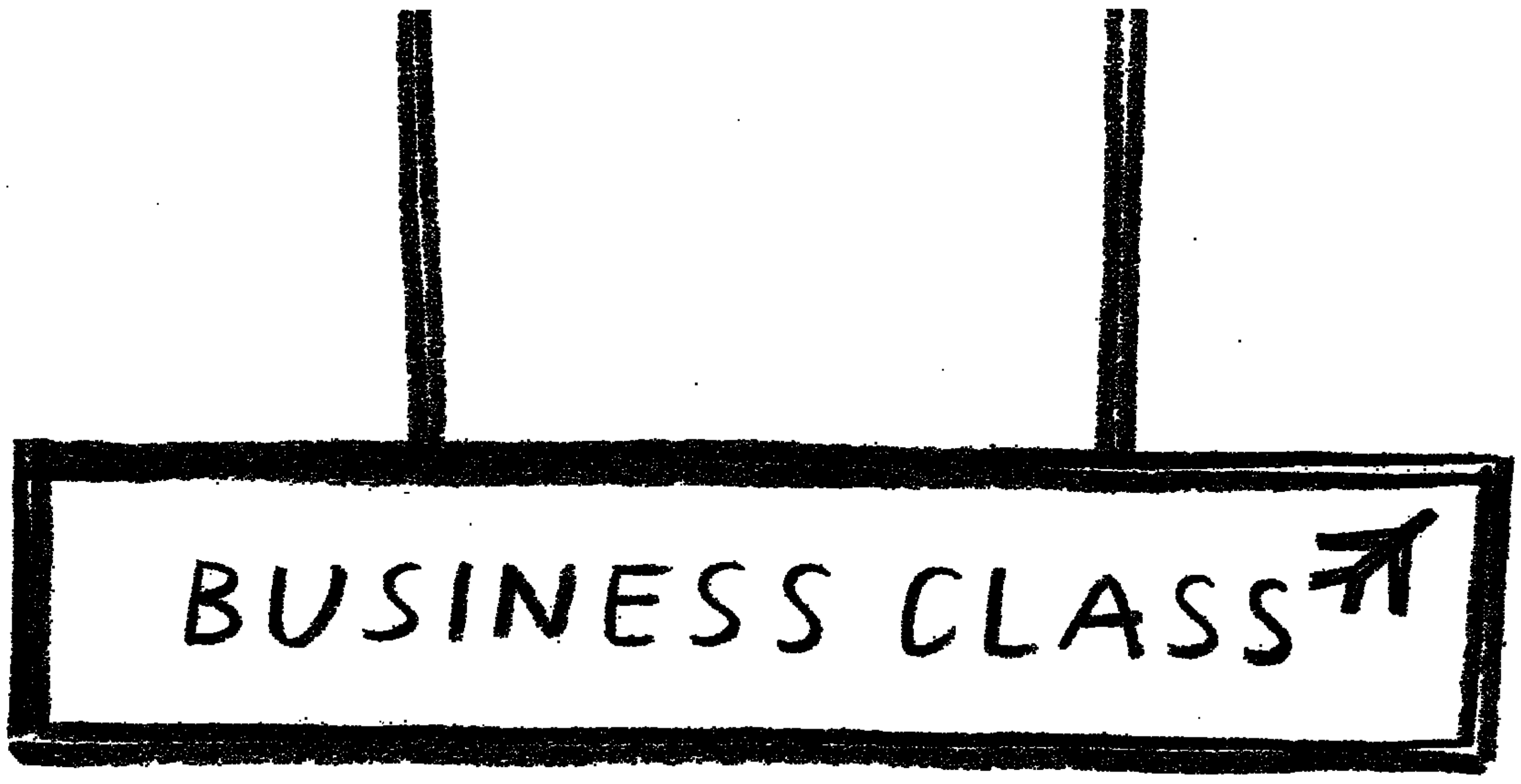

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Praise the Lord but, please, turn down the music

A church whose worship rattled its neighbours has been fined, reports **Damian Whitworth**

AN EVANGELICAL church which uses rap and hip-hop music to attract younger worshipers was found guilty yesterday of praising the Lord too loudly. The din from services was preventing local children from sleeping, rattling the windows of houses nearby and drowning the sound from televisions, a court was told.

Potter's House Christian Fellowship, in Walthamstow, East London, which attracts congregations of 900, was found guilty of twice contravening a noise abatement notice served after complaints from neighbours. The church was fined £100 for each of the two offences and ordered to pay £500 towards the costs of Waltham Forest council, which brought the case.

The dispute centred on the differing views of the two parties on what constitutes excessive noise. The racket in question came from amplifiers during services and gospel concerts.

The noise abatement notice had been served in July 1995 after 25 complaints. Walthamstow magistrates were told that the church, which did not appeal against the notice, continued to play the music in the residential area.

Ruth Plume, an environmental health officer, responded to a call from angry neighbours one evening in September 1996. She visited a house opposite the church where a child was unable to sleep. "The noise was very loud, certainly enough to prevent anybody sleeping," she told the court.

Downstairs other members of the family were trying to watch television. "All I could hear was the amplified music," she said. "You couldn't hear the television unless you put the volume up so loud that it was distorted. I judged that to be a nuisance." When she visited some nearby flats she found the windows vibrating.

Andrew Clayton, another environmental health officer, responded to a complaint last December and found that the windows at the back of the church itself were rattling. He then visited the home of the complaining neighbours. "It was difficult to concentrate on what he was saying to me," he said and explained how he knew the music was amplified. "It was 50ft away through a closed window."

David Vicary, the pastor of the church, denied that the noise was excessive. "The PA system is used to enable the musicians to lead the congregation. Just a piano would be drowned out by the singing. This is just the music needed to lead the congregation of young families in worship. People come because it's lively and joyful and they leave uplifted."

Mr Vicary said that, if the music stopped, the church would be finished. "It's very easy to exaggerate the meaning of the word excessive. Although you can hear it a couple of times a week for a short period, it's not an excessive nuisance."

However, asked the all-important question of whether or not he would be turning the knob on his amplifier firmly in an anti-clockwise direction, he uttered — quietly — the only word that many less ebullient souls in E17 have been waiting to hear: "Yes."

At Your Service
Weekend, page 13

MICHAEL POWELL

Allan Bagnall of Northumberland with his world-record leek, weighing 13 lb 6.4 oz, at the 1997 UK Giants contest in Spalding, Lincolnshire

Tourists went on shoplifting spree

By a Staff Reporter

TWO elderly American women seemed the perfect big-spending visitors as they toured Scotland. By the end of their trip, they had souvenirs worth £7,000 to take home. The trouble was, they had not paid for any of them.

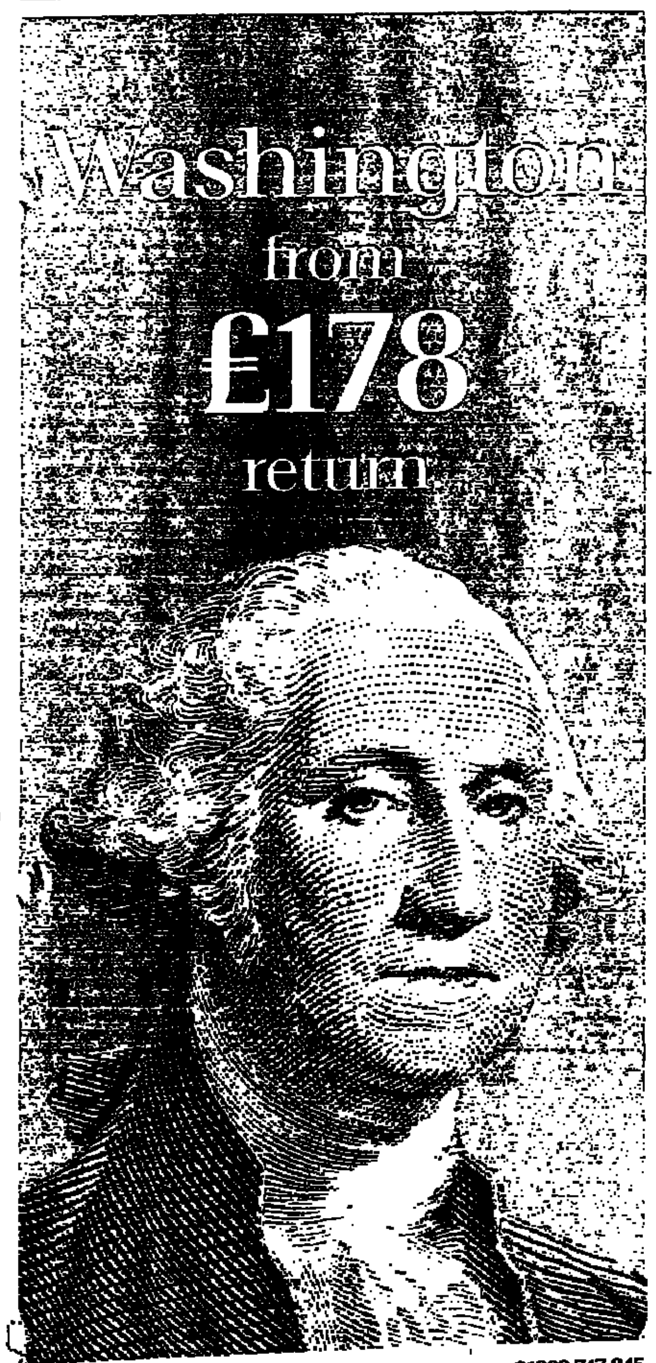
Margo Woodman, 73, yesterday admitted 12 charges of theft from shops across the country and Evelyn Raschke, 61, admitted one charge. Woodman escaped prison after sobbing in the dock and begging to be released. She pleaded with Sheriff Alexander Wilkinson, QC: "Please, please, I am sorry. I will never survive in prison."

Taking into account her age, the sheriff fined her £3,000 and Raschke £500.

While staying at the Glasgow Hilton, the two women, friends from childhood, used a hired car to go on a shoplifting spree in tourist spots. John Napier, for the prosecution, told Edinburgh Sheriff Court that it was "shoplifting on a grand scale".

Raschke told police: "I knew Margo had stolen things, I didn't know where from. She said she was going to ship the stuff back home in containers." Among her thefts, Woodman admitted stealing more than £2,500 of clothes from one hotel golf shop, £3,000 of jumpers from the Old Golf Course Hotel in St Andrews and a variety of goods from Edinburgh's Tiso shop.

Andy Gilbertson, for Woodman, a former journalist from Florida, told the court she suffered a variety of illnesses, including Alzheimer's disease, cancer and arthritis, and was "confused".



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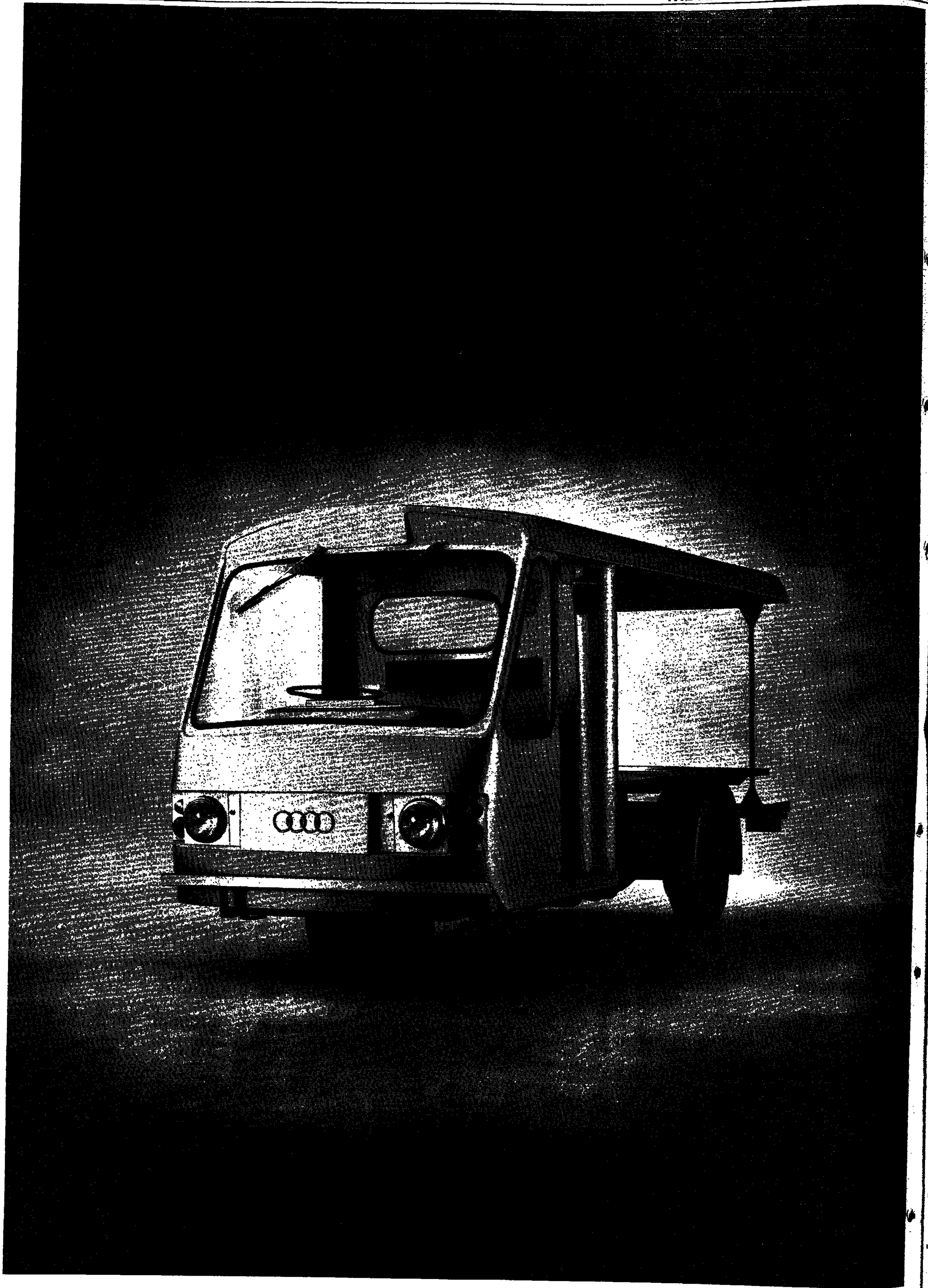

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SIMON SCHLUTER

A sight that stopped traffic: the pupils of Christ's Hospital School marching to St Paul's yesterday. They no longer have to wear the uniform for travelling

Pupils walk out for a City lunch with all the frills

By Damian Whitworth

THE spectacle of 850 pupils marching through the City of London in school uniform yesterday prompted accusations of torture. "If I made my kids do that, they'd never speak to me," said Harry Rhodes as he revved his black taxi behind the tail of the procession.

Christ's Hospital School, founded in 1552, was marching from Cannon Street Station to St Paul's Cathedral, then to lunch at Guildhall to mark the centenary of their move to Horsham, West Sussex. Mr Rhodes's observation was based on their attire: full school uniform consists of ankle-length Tudor "housie" coats, breeches or skirts, and knee-length canary yellow socks. The girls had frilly collars.

"They are used to it but perhaps not to marching through London in it in front of stopped traffic," admitted one master.

"They used to have to wear it to go home in but we stopped that in order to ensure we got them all back again at the beginning of the next term."

Considering that teenagers are a self-conscious lot, they marched behind their band with great dignity. Only when the noise of the music brought office workers to every window, drinkers to the doors of pubs and tourists' camcorders zooming in, did some of the marching become a little sheepish. One boy blushed to his boots when his mother shouted "Helloeee! Darling."

Every year on St Matthew's Day a portion of the co-educational boarding school marches to the cathedral for a service. This was the first time that anyone can recall the whole school turning out. After the service the pupils marched on to Guildhall for their lunch with the Lord Mayor.

Elizabeth Cairncross, the deputy head teacher, said: "We are very proud and grateful for our connections with the history of the City and we like to show we still treasure those connections."

Britain gives up fight over Lockerbie

By Andrew Pierce

THE hunt for the Lockerbie bombers is effectively being called off by ministers, who have given up hope of bringing the perpetrators to justice. The unexpected move has dismayed relatives of the victims of the 1988 bombing, which killed all 259 people on board the Pan Am jumbo jet and 11 people on the ground.

MPs have also expressed dismay that the multimillion-pound investigation is being abandoned. Only last month two senior British politicians and a father of one of the victims met Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in Tripoli. Lord Steel, the former Liberal Democrat leader, and Sir Cyril Townsend, the former vice-chairman of the Conservative parliamentary foreign affairs committee, had talks to try to break the impasse over the extradition from Libya of the two men accused of the bombing.

A senior government source made clear yesterday that there was no prospect of the chief suspects, Abdul Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, who have been kept under house arrest in Tripoli since November 1991, being brought to trial. He said: "We have to be realistic. It was so long ago. The time has come to move on."

Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter, Flora, was killed one day before her 24th birthday, urged the Government not to give up the fight. Dr Swire, the chairman of the UK Families Flight 103, which was set up to campaign for international justice, said: "Those who lost children find it hardest of all to cope with the idea of having the origin of their death concealed.

"The families whose loved ones were murdered want a trial because it might show whether those two Libyans are guilty. The two accused were only acting on someone's orders.

"We are not prepared to accept a compromise where financial compensation is paid out but the inconvenience of an international trial is avoided." Pressure for a trial will continue from the government's own back benches. Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP, has already demanded that Tony Blair set up a new investigation.

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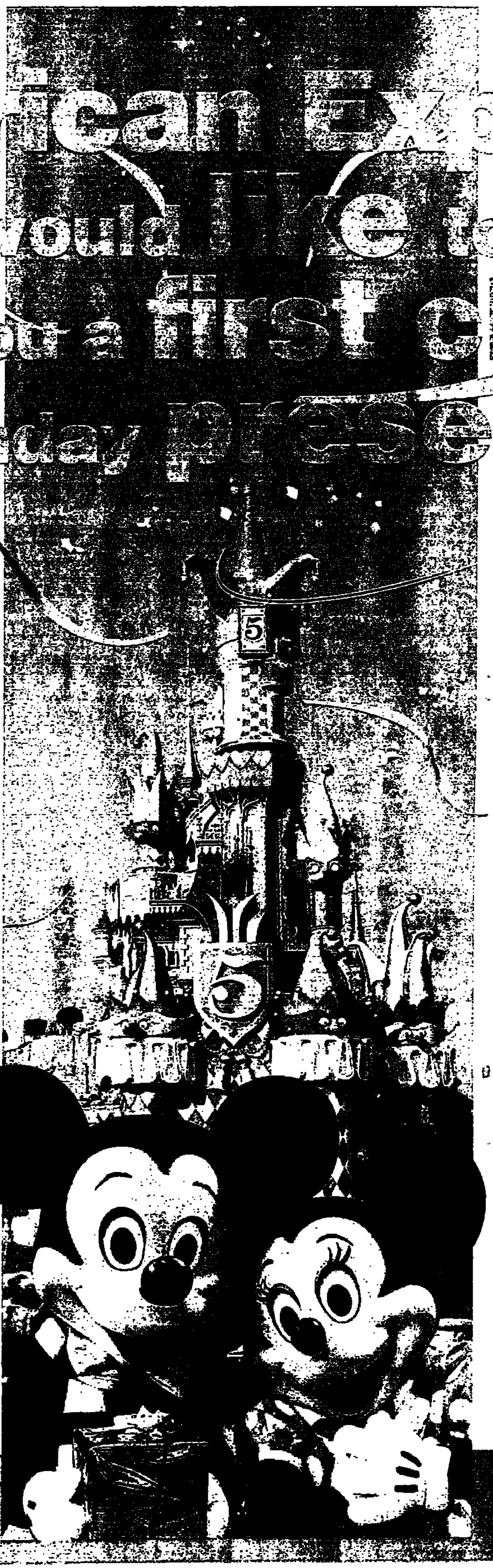

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Not to mention the other 5th Anniversary specials like the dazzling Hunchback of Notre Dame Carnival and the nostalgic Disney Classics Musical spectacular. And of course there are all the other attractions that have made Disneyland Paris famously fun-filled already. There are over 50 breathtaking attractions and shows in five magical Worlds for you to explore: nineteenth century Main Street, USA; western Frontierland; futuristic Discoveryland; exotic Adventureland and fairytale-like Fantasyland.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Stephen Fry's schooldays

❛Even before his face came into view, the world changed. When he gave the quickest of glances back up the hill, I saw that he was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen in my life . . .❜

Exclusive serialisation of Stephen Fry's autobiography — in News Review

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

ENO chief quits after failing to get new opera house

By Rodney Milne and Carol Midgley

DENNIS MARKS, the general director of English National Opera, resigned yesterday months after failing in his attempt to build a new opera house. Mr Marks, 49, who took over as director in 1993, said he was returning to his previous career in film and television.

His sudden resignation, which left the ENO without an immediate successor, comes after a difficult year for Mr Marks. The Arts Council, which had granted him £1 million to commission a feasibility study to leave the Coliseum and erect a custom-built opera house with National Lottery money, distanced itself from the plan when it was completed.

He is believed to have offered his resignation over the Arts Council's stabilisation programme, which compelled him to postpone last year's world premiere of Gavin Bryars's new opera. Reports last week claimed the Arts Council had told Mr Marks he would get his stabilisation money only if he dropped the idea of a new opera house.

Yesterday Mr Marks, a former producer and director for BBC arts who has worked on *Omnibus*, *Arena* and *Full House*, gave no reason for his decision. He said only: "It has been a privilege and an inspiration to be part of English National Opera for the past four years."

His directorship had been uneasy from the start. The handing-over process from the previous highly successful regime of Peter Jonas, Mark Elder and David Pountney, who resigned together, went far from smoothly. There was a deficit which, in the context of steadily falling public subsidy, could not be cleared. Audiences had fallen away and there was a mismatch with his young music director, Sian Edwards.

Marks's two priorities were rebuilding both a central repertory and the ENO ensemble of singers, which had shrunk significantly. In both he was to a large extent successful. Safe productions of standard works helped to woo back the ENO's core audience, and the emphasis on "company artists" gave at least the impression of an important ENO principle reborn.

But Marks was said not to be at ease as a public figure or with man-management. Last year there was a well-publicised row with the ENO's resident composer, Mark-Anthony Turnage.

John Baker, ENO's chairman, paid tribute to Mr Marks's "determination to secure ENO's future as the People's Opera" and said his expertise had been of tremendous value to the company.

ALAN WELLER

The Arts Council distanced itself from Dennis Marks's new opera house plan

Internet boom 'is threat to future of TV'

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

BROADCASTERS risk losing audiences and revenue as more people switch to the Internet, a senior BBC executive said yesterday.

Edward Briffa, controller of BBC Online and a former editor of *Tomorrow's World*, said that, by the end of July, 3.1 million people were connected to the Internet in Britain. "More importantly, there is a 94 per cent growth rate. This is boom time for the Internet." By 2000, 40 per cent of the population could be connected.

Speaking at the Royal Television Society's convention in Cambridge, Mr Briffa said that the BBC was likely to spend about £10 million of licence fee money this year on BBC Online, which will be launched in six weeks at the same time as the BBC's new 24-hour digital television news service. Already the BBC has two dozen web sites. "We see Online as a third broadcast medium [after television and radio]. We are going to be big in news," he said.

Already in the United States Internet users were spending 12.8 hours a week with their PCs — time when they could not watch television. Ten per cent of new car sales in New York state had some Internet involvement, research showed.

The Internet in Britain was already becoming "mainstream", and it was happening at the expense of broadcasting, Mr Briffa said.

David Docherty, another BBC executive, told the convention delegates that they had to embrace the new media enthusiastically or risk extinction. "If we don't understand where 14-year-olds are getting their media from in 20 years' time, we won't have the BBC and once it is de-invented it will never be invented again."

Rupert Gavin, head of multimedia at BT, said that, by 2004, the number of Internet users could match the current 900 million telephone lines in the world. The present 40 million Internet users were increasing by 65 per cent a year, whereas the 120 million subscription television users were increasing at 12 per cent.

Valerie Grove, page 23

Gabriel of The Archers is dead

By Mark Henderson

THE actor who played Nelson Gabriel in *The Archers* for 45 years died yesterday after a long illness. Jack May, 75, was believed to be the fourth-longest serving soap-opera star in the world.

He described his character — a wine-bar manager and unscrupulous antique dealer — as "a whizzkid who has settled down a bit", and said that they had a lot in common. Vanessa Whitburn, editor of the Radio 4 series, said: "His creation of the much-loved, scurrilous Nelson Gabriel will be much missed."

Mr May first acted in the series in 1952 and made his last appearance in January. *The Archers* is the longest-running soap opera on radio or television and only three of his co-stars beat his 45 years. Norman Painting, who plays Philip Archer, and June Spencer, who plays Peggy Woolley, were in a 1950 pilot episode. Bob Arnold, who plays Tom Forrest, joined in 1951. Television's longest-serving soap actor, Bill Roache, has played Ken Barlow in *Coronation Street* since 1960.

Obituary, page 27

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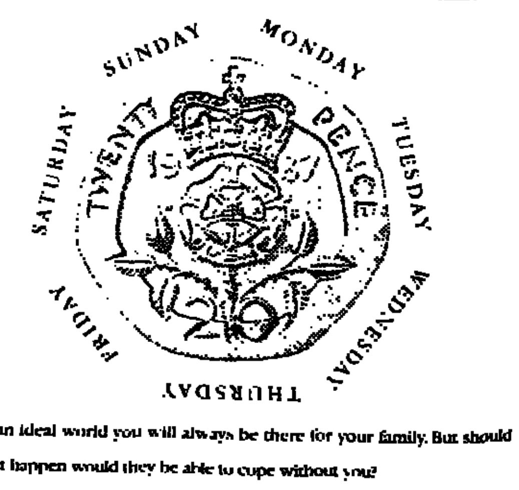

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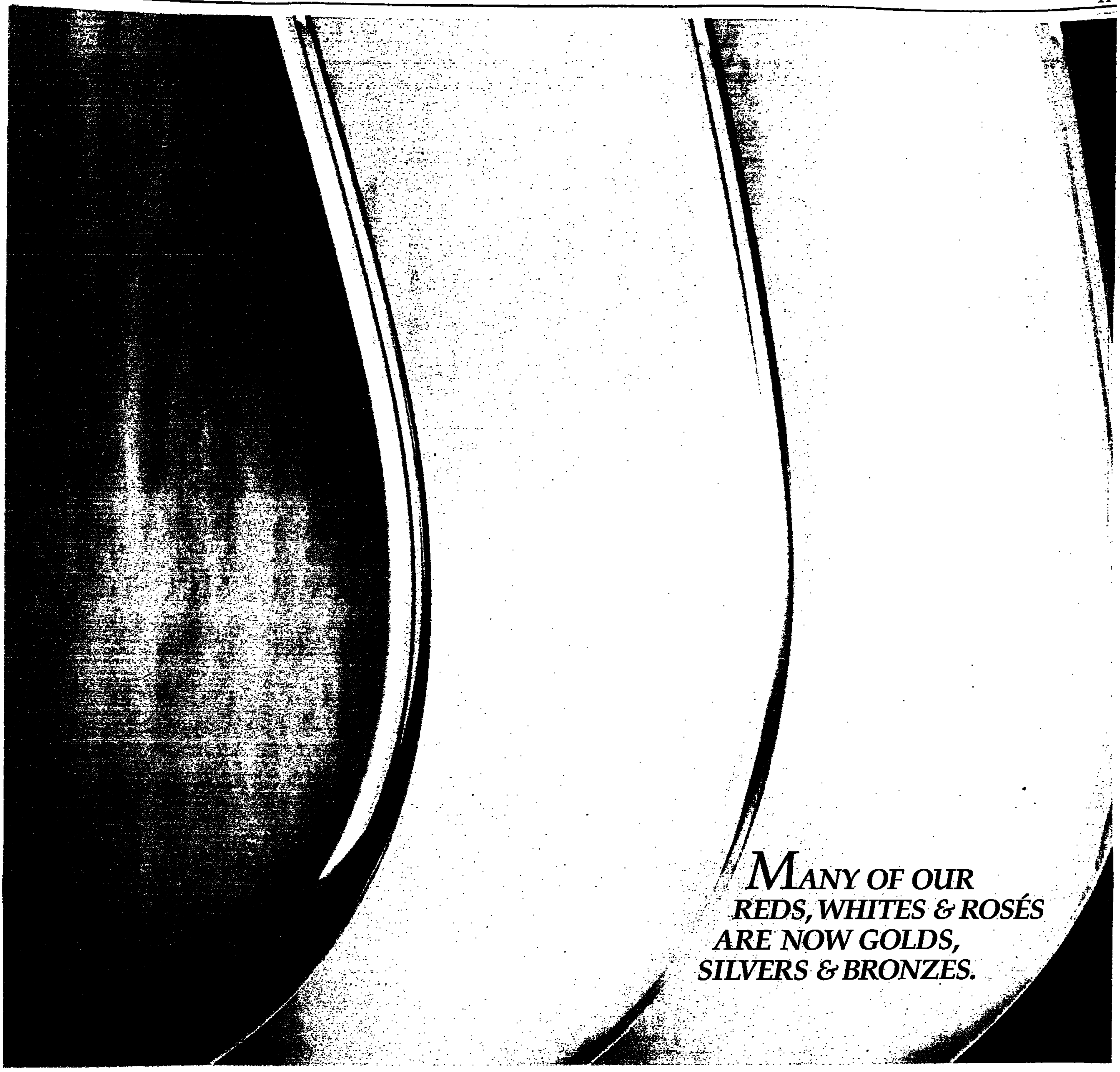

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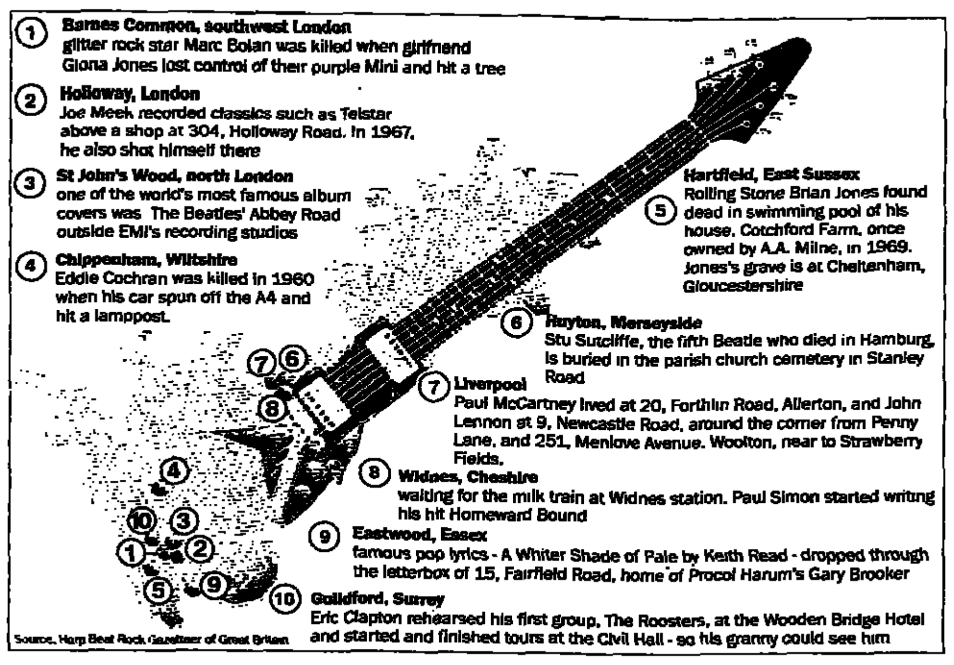

① Barnes Common, southwest London
glitter rock star Marc Bolan was killed when girlfriend Gloria Jones lost control of their purple Mini and hit a tree
② Holloway, London
Joe Meek recorded classics such as Telstar above a shop at 304, Holloway Road. In 1967, he also shot himself there
③ St John's Wood, north London
one of the world's most famous album covers was The Beatles' Abbey Road outside EMI's recording studios
④ Chippenham, Wiltshire
Eddie Cochran was killed in 1960 when his car spun off the A4 and hit a lamppost.
⑤ Hartfield, East Sussex
Rolling Stone Brian Jones found dead in swimming pool of his house, Cotchford Farm, once owned by A.A. Milne, in 1969. Jones's grave is at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
⑥ Huyton, Merseyside
Stu Sutcliffe, the fifth Beatle who died in Hamburg, is buried in the parish church cemetery in Stanley Road
⑦ Liverpool
Paul McCartney lived at 20, Forthlin Road, Allerton, and John Lennon at 9, Newcastle Road, around the corner from Penny Lane, and 251, Menlove Avenue, Woolton, near to Strawberry Fields.
⑧ Widnes, Cheshire
waiting for the milk train at Widnes station, Paul Simon started writing his hit Homeward Bound
⑨ Eastwood, Essex
famous pop lyrics - A Whiter Shade of Pale by Keith Read - dropped through the letterbox of 15, Fairfield Road, home of Procol Harum's Gary Brooker
⑩ Guildford, Surrey
Eric Clapton rehearsed his first group, The Roosters, at the Wooden Bridge Hotel and started and finished tours at the Civil Hall - so his granny could see him
⑦ ⑥ ⑧ ④ ⑩ ③ ① ② ⑤ ⑨

Source, Harp Beat Rock Gazetteer of Great Britain

Missing markers on the rock and roll of honour

By Kevin Eason

IN THE four decades since Britain became the centre of pop culture, hundreds of stars have left their mark on towns and cities.

Yet there are few reminders to point out where such world-famous groups as the Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds and Genesis or singers such as David Bowie or Rod Stewart carved out their careers in pubs and youth clubs. Nor are there memorials to the stars who failed to make it into the 1990s — like the Rolling Stones founder Brian Jones, or Eddie Cochran — so that fans can make their pilgrimage.

While Britain's tourist literature marks sites made famous by poets, artists and politicians, enthusiasts of rock and pop have to pick their own way around the countryside trying to spot the scenes of album covers or the cafés where groups were formed. English Heritage unveiled a blue plaque to the guitarist Jimi Hendrix last weekend, 27 years after his death, on a building next to one that carries a plaque commemorating George Friederic Handel.

English Heritage rules say, however, that a commemorative plaque can be awarded only to people born more than 100 years ago or dead for more than 20 years. No pop stars meet the first rule — a legion meet the second, including Bolan. The anniversary of his death in 1977 was marked this week by the Performing Rights Society which erected a headstone on Barnes Common in southwest London where his Mini hit a tree.

The site is famous enough to be a celebrated rock shrine, unlike the simple grave in Cheltenham cemetery where Brian Jones is buried. He was found in the swimming pool of his home, Cotchford Farm, Hartfield, East Sussex, in 1969.

Eddie Cochran, the much-copied American rock'n'roll singer and guitarist, was killed in 1960 when his car spun off the A4 and hit a lamppost. The Beatles inevitably dominate the landscape of British pop: 20 Forthlin Road, Allerton, is where Paul McCartney was brought up and songs such as *Love Me Do* were composed in the living room. John Lennon's boyhood was spent at 9 Newcastle Road, around the corner from Penny Lane, before moving to 251 Menlove Avenue, Woolton, near to Strawberry Fields, the Salvation Army children's home.

There are also unlikely potential shrines, according to Pete Frame, *The Times* rock expert in his 1989 Harp Beat Rock Gazetteer of Great Britain. He uncovered the Fox and Hounds at Caversham, Berkshire, where Lennon and McCartney holidayed in 1960, playing an impromptu acoustic concert under the name the Nurk Twins.

Transport has also played its part: Paul Simon started writing his hit *Homeward Bound* on Widnes station.

OPEN HOUSE

The Bank of England tops the list of more than 400 London buildings specially opened to the public this weekend. For the first time, a significant number of the great departments of state in Whitehall are included in the annual Open House programme, among them the Foreign Office, the Scottish Office and the Treasury building overlooking Parliament Square.

☐ Open House hotline: 0891 600061.

The first wing of Anthony Gormley's *Angel of the North* is completed at Hartlepool Steel. The wingspan will rival that of a jumbo jet

Town gets first view of steel angel

As the wraps were lifted on the latest landscape artwork, **Dalya Alberge** looks at new sculpture in the North

THE people of Gateshead yesterday had their first chance to see a controversial 65ft statue of an angel that will stand alongside the A1 outside the town on the south bank of the Tyne.

Engineers from Gateshead council and Hartlepool Steel Fabrications, the manufacturers, showed off the half-built statue in Hartlepool. One wing is almost complete and work has begun on its metal body.

The *Angel of the North*, designed by the Turner prize-winning sculptor Anthony Gormley, has a £584,000 grant from the Arts Council's National Lottery funds. Many local councillors have attacked its £800,000 cost.

When completed later this year it will be the largest sculpture in Britain, with a wingspan almost as large as a jumbo jet. About 90,000 people will see the statue from the road every day.

Mr Gormley, 47, confessed yesterday that the idea for the angel was not his but that of Pat Connaty, a Gateshead councillor. "We were discussing possibilities and he said: 'What we need is a bloody great angel.' I looked at the site and realised he was absolutely right."

Although born in London, Mr Gormley said he had an affinity and feeling for the North East through regular visits. "The site used to be a coal mine. Now the area has been filled in and landscaped but the angel will be a marker for years to come that men toiled underground. It stands for the sense of community."

The project is among many high-profile public sculptures that are changing the landscape of the North East. David Mach's *Train* in Darlington, a full-size locomotive created from thousands of bricks, opened earlier this year, its £1 million cost also supported with money from the lottery.

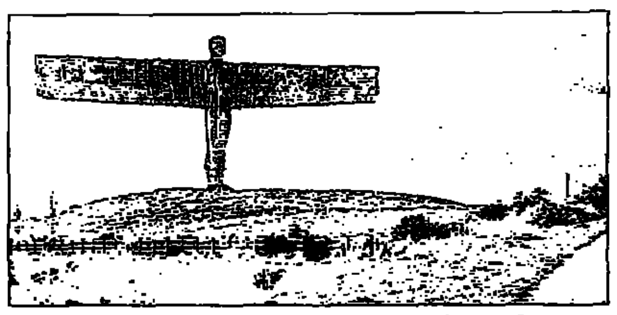
Claus Oldenburg's *Bottle of Notes* in Middlesbrough — a huge bottle filled with letters — was inspired by Captain Cook, who came from the area. A commission from Bill Viola for Durham Cathedral was in the form of a video, *The Messenger*, which showed a naked man emerging from a black void.

Andy Goldsworthy, the sculptor who creates works of beauty and delicacy with natural materials, is making 100 sheepfolds in Cumbria.

Paul Rubinstein, deputy chief executive of Northern Arts, said the total investment in public art in the North was well over £2 million.

Although there had been local criticism, with several people calling for such money to be used on health and the homeless rather than art, he emphasised that the works of art involved schools and community organisations. "Overall, community acceptance is very high."

Additional reporting by Mark Henderson.



The statue as it will look when erected near the A1

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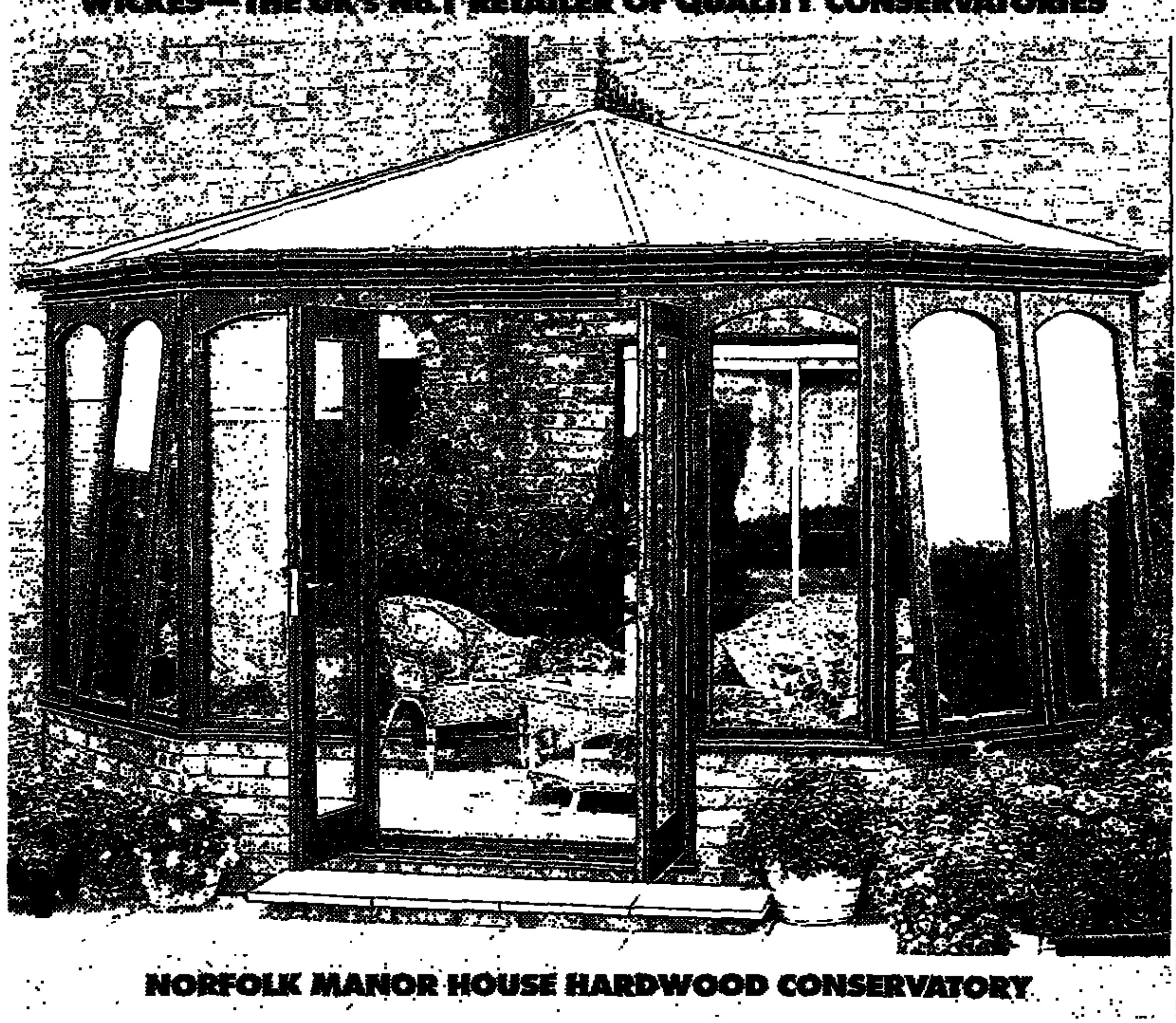

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هكذا من الأصل

The sport with triple the action

They swim, they cycle, they run – and they look good. **David Powell** on the triathletes

A sport born in the surf of Hawaii, and boasting some of the best bodies in athletics, reaches a new high in London tomorrow with *Britain's first* mass-participation triathlon, the swim-bike-run discipline that rivals the marathon as the modern test of endurance.

Of the 3,000 competitors who will make the Docklands triathlon the second largest in the world after Chicago, two-thirds will be first-timers. If their entry has been posted from a home address in California or the Côte d'Azur, so much *the* better. *Britain's* best triathletes live abroad. Simon Lessing, the world champion, resides in Salon de Provence. Spencer Smith, Britain's No 2 and a former world champion, in San Diego, and Annaleah Emmerson, Britain's leading woman professional, in Denia, near Alicante. Better to train with the sun on your back than the rain in your face.

This is the sport of the tanned *and toned*. According to William Newton of Total Fitness, a leading United Kingdom retailer: 'Triathletes are a different market from runners and cyclists. Runners and cyclists will generally spend as little as they can and not particularly care what they look like. Triathletes are not scared to fork out a fortune. A lot of triathletes say it does not matter how fast you go, it probably matters a whole lot more what you look like."

Spencer Smith, a world champion who fits perfectly the perception of a triathlete — ponytail, earrings, Mercedes convertible — once noted that "people think we haven't got a proper job", and added: "They should come and do my schedule. I swim six times a week for 1½ hours each time, I bike an average 2½ to 3½ hours a day and run for five to *seven hours a week.*"

Smith is not competing in London, choosing instead to prepare for next month's Hawaii Ironman triathlon, the sport's classic base which was established when 15 eccentrics entered the water off Waikiki Beach in 1978 on a course comprising a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile ride and a marathon run of 26 miles 385 yards.

Only one of the 200 triathlons held annually in Britain is over this "Ironman" distance. The sport has attracted 15,000 members to 230 clubs through a range of shorter distance events. Most of tomorrow's competitors will tackle the Olympic distance — a 1500-metre swim, 40-kilometre ride and 10-kilometre run. It is the distance at *which Lessing is world champion.*

The top competitors can earn about £750,000 a year, more than the annual turnover of the British Triathlon Association. Emmerson, who is among Europe's best women triathletes but is not yet one of its world stars, earns £20,000 a year in sponsorship alone. It is little wonder that the sport's clothing manufacturers want their logos on her. She could step off the bike and on to the catwalk.

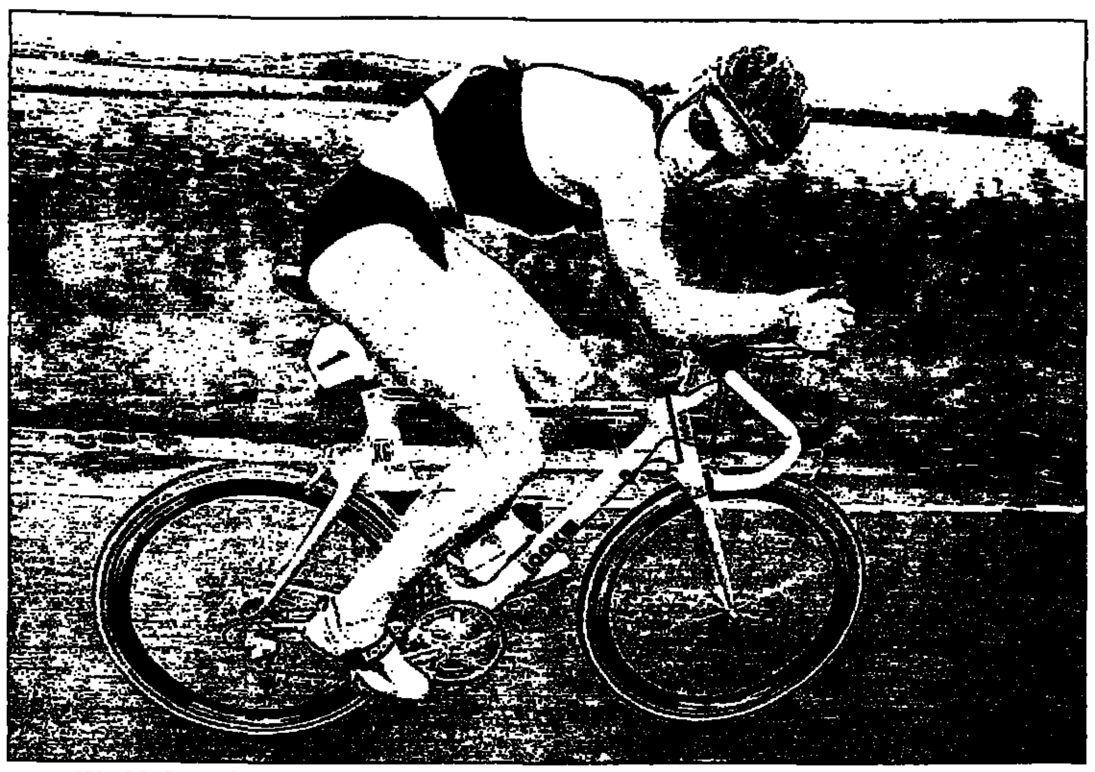
Triathletes inhabit a world of heart-rate monitors, energy bars and exotic locations. *Triathlete* magazine reports from Malibu, Honolulu and Surfer's Paradise. Switch to *220*, another dedicated triathlon magazine, and you read a report from Rogart complaining about "skimpy underpants" worn in a race: "Shocking, lewd and disgusting seeing these sweating leg-pumping men with hardly any*thing on their bottoms.*"

How can you argue, though, with a sport which is the ideal combination of aerobic activity, training, toning and conditioning, which combines three Olympic sports, and which will join the Olympic programme at Sydney?

Lessing said: "Most people think of triathlons being for athletes who are abnormal, but it is something most people can do." All you need is a bike, trainers, swimming costume and, in British waters, a wetsuit. You may not be good at it but turn up with Oakley sunglasses, ponytail and tri-trunks, and you will at least look as if you are.

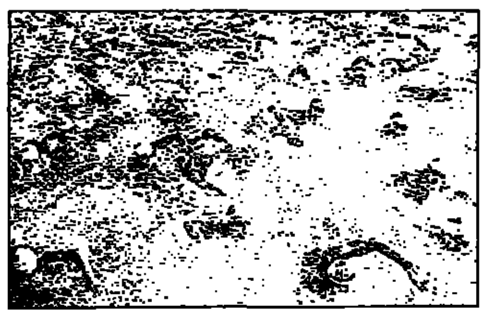
Sport, page 51

The Times will publish the complete list of finishers in the London Triathlon on Monday



World champion Lessing in action: "It's something that most people can do," he says

■ Simon Lessing: Age 26. Height 6ft 3in. Weight 11st 11lb. Born and raised in South Africa, has competed for Britain since 1989, winning four world titles and three European championships. Lives in South of France. In the London Triathlon, will be defending an unbeaten record for the year, having won all seven events in which he has taken part.



Ironman swimmers in Hawaii

BASIC FACTS

☐ An Olympic-distance triathlon lasts anything between two and four hours, but there are shorter distances.

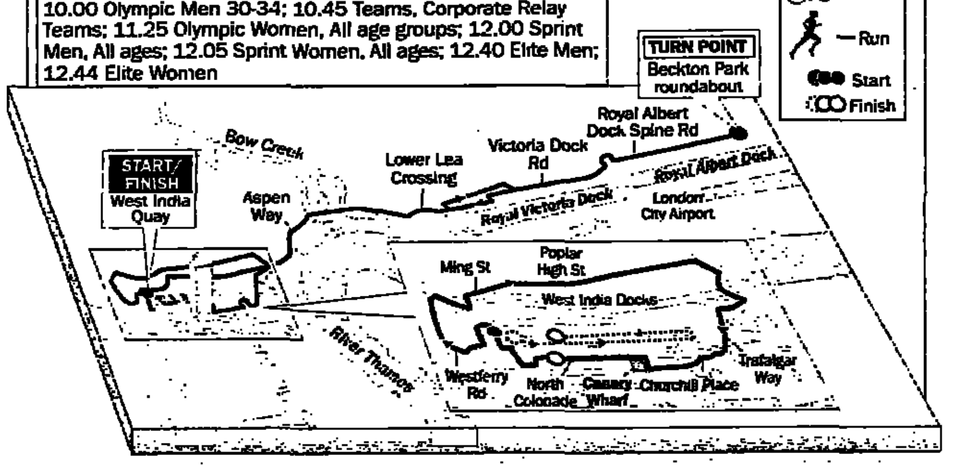
☐ Olympic distances are 1500-metre swim, 40-kilometre bike, 10-kilometre run. Sprint distances are 500-metre swim, 13-kilometre bike, 7-kilometre run. In the relay, teams of three compete over the Olympic distance with one swimming, one cycling, one running.

☐ Basic kit — trainers, tri-trunks, tri-vest, bike and helmet — costs about £200 for juniors, but costs exceed £1,000 at club level. Made-to-measure wetsuits cost £200, and an aluminium bike with aerodynamic wheels and aero bars can be £5,000.

☐ Contact the British Triathlon Association for a Do Tri starter pack at PO Box 26, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2ZR, tel 01530 414234.

A CAPITAL SWIM - BIKE - RUN

Twelve waves of competitors will take part in the triathlon. The starting times are: 7.30 Army, Navy, Air Force; 7.35 Olympic Men 35-39; 8.20 Olympic Men 17-20, 21-24, 50-59, 60+; 8.25 Olympic Men 40-44, 45-49; 9.10 Olympic Men 25-29; 10.00 Olympic Men 30-34; 10.45 Teams, Corporate Relay Teams; 11.25 Olympic Women, All age groups; 12.00 Sprint Men, All ages; 12.05 Sprint Women, All ages; 12.40 Elite Men; 12.44 Elite Women



■ Annaleah Emmerson: Age 27. Height 5ft 7in. Weight 8st 9lb. A former sales representative who met some triathlon competitors when she took up swimming five years ago. Has since turned professional and competes for Racing Club France. Holds the British middle-distance title. Illness has kept her from the London Triathlon.

Model looks: Emmerson earns £20,000 a year in sponsorship

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Narrow escape should force ministers to rethink their plans

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The wafer-thin majority for Welsh devolution is the worst possible basis on which to introduce a major constitutional change. Of course, a margin of 0.6 per cent will allow the Government to proceed with legislation this winter and it has a large enough Commons majority to see off likely parliamentary challenges.

But it is ludicrous to pretend that the result represents "the settled will" of the Welsh people, as was said of the decisive result in Scotland a week ago. Contrast the two votes: in Scotland, more than three fifths turned out and nearly three quarters supported a Scottish parliament; but in Wales barely a half turned out and a similar proportion supported devolution. This means that, while 45 per cent of the registered electorate in Scotland voted "yes", just a quarter did in Wales. Even if some adjustment is made for the age of the register, compiled last October and eroded by deaths and moves, it is likely that, at most, three in ten adults in Wales backed devolution.

Admittedly, turnout is even lower in local or European elections, so a tiny majority still counts. But now that referendums are becoming a regular, rather than occasional, feature of British political life, it is time to draw up more formal rules. As Robert Hazell, of the Constitution Unit, argued in *The Times* last Tuesday, there are questions about when governments should be obliged to hold referendums and about a fair balance between both sides in the campaigns (the "yes" groups enjoyed a huge financial and propaganda advantage in Scotland and Wales). Formal thresholds of either turnout or proportions of the electorate have been discredited among devolution supporters after the Scottish proposals failed in 1979 because of such a requirement. But the case for some form of threshold is strengthened by the Welsh result.

For Tony Blair, the outcome at least continues his run of successes. However, the bitter arguments within the Welsh Labour Party are likely to continue with the pro-devolution MPs angry about the activities of the five MPs in the "no" camp. It was the huge "yes" votes in nationalist areas that turned the result. Morever, the ambiguous outcome in Wales is hardly like to set off a chain reaction of demands for regional government in England, aside from the North East.

The ebullience of Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, claiming a "stunning" victory, was balanced by the more cautious response of Mr Blair, who said it was important to respond "to the fears that were expressed by people". Mr Davies was no doubt relieved at the narrow escape, both for him and his strategy. But the Government cannot press ahead as if Welsh devolution had been overwhelmingly endorsed. Ministers should review their plans.

PETER RIDDELL

Roynon: newcomer

Londoner has the last word

By Nicholas Watt

THE WELSH were left agog as the last result of referendum night, which decided the contest, was read aloud in stuttering, halting Welsh — in a broad London accent.

Bradley Roynon, 46, Carmarthenshire's new returning officer, who moved to Wales in June, struggled to declare the result at 3.50am. He spent the day of the poll rehearsing his lines and had instructed his Welsh-speaking officials to write out the result in phonetics.

Mr Roynon, chief executive of Carmarthenshire County Council, said later: "We had to insert the numbers at the last minute. But the difficult bit was the official text leading up to the figures. I felt it was important to make the effort because Carmarthenshire is a strong Welsh-speaking area."

With the help of his staff Mr Roynon now hopes to improve his Welsh, which has equal status with English in the Principality.

Wafer-thin victory rescues Labour from humiliation

By Valerie Elliott

IN A cliffhanger of a count, Wales backed the creation of an assembly by the narrowest of margins, saving the Prime Minister from a damaging defeat on a central election pledge. The country decided by 6,721 votes — 0.6 per cent — to back the Government's plans: 559,419 voted "yes" (50.3 per cent) and 552,698, "no" (49.7 per cent).

Tony Blair's visits to Wales in the last week of the referendum campaign were vital in achieving the final swing to the "yes" camp, Labour strategists claimed yesterday. They believe that the personal appeal he issued to voters in Cardiff and Wrexham helped to prevent an even bigger "no" vote in these anglicised areas.

Although the party was saved from humiliation, strategists cited various reasons for the failure to achieve a more emphatic victory. Apathy had all along been viewed by supporters of devolution as a serious obstacle. The overall turnout on Thursday was 50 per cent, but in border areas which gave a "no", between 41 and 46 per cent voted. Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire, in the northeast, and Newport, Cardiff and Torfaen, in the southeast, showed a distinct lack of enthusiasm.

The suspension of campaigning in the week after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales was also seen as having produced a loss of momentum for the "yes" camp. Ministers had planned to step up the campaign in the first week of September, setting out the merits of a Welsh assembly.

Some Labour supporters thought the Government should have funded the "no" and "yes" campaigns to produce information leaflets, as was the case in the 1979 referendum. Devolution enthusiasts considered the Welsh Office's leaflets too bland. One government source accused the media of focusing on Labour dissension rather than on substantive issues.

Yet the results generally ran along traditional political lines, with North pitted against South, English-speakers against Welsh-speakers, rural heartlands against conurbations. The "yes" vote did see an unusual alliance between Welsh-speaking areas in the North and West and Labour strongholds in the valleys.

The result in Neath and Port Talbot, where Peter Hain, the Welsh Office minister, has his constituency, was a personal triumph: it was the largest "yes" vote, at 66.5 per cent. In Anglesey, the slimness of the majority for devolution was attributable to an intrinsically strong Tory vote. At general elections, Tories vote for Plaid Cymru to keep Labour out; on devolution they showed their true colours.

The clinching last result of the night, in Carmarthenshire, was a particular source of pride to Nick Ainger, a local MP and aide to Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary.

Leading article, page 25

Assembling the great and keen

TELEVISION weather presenter Sian Lloyd, who has a first-class degree in Welsh and was a prominent "Yes" campaigners, declared recently that she would love to be Prime Minister of Wales (Nicholas Watt writes). The elections will give many of the Principality's figures the chance to sit in its first parliament for 500 years.

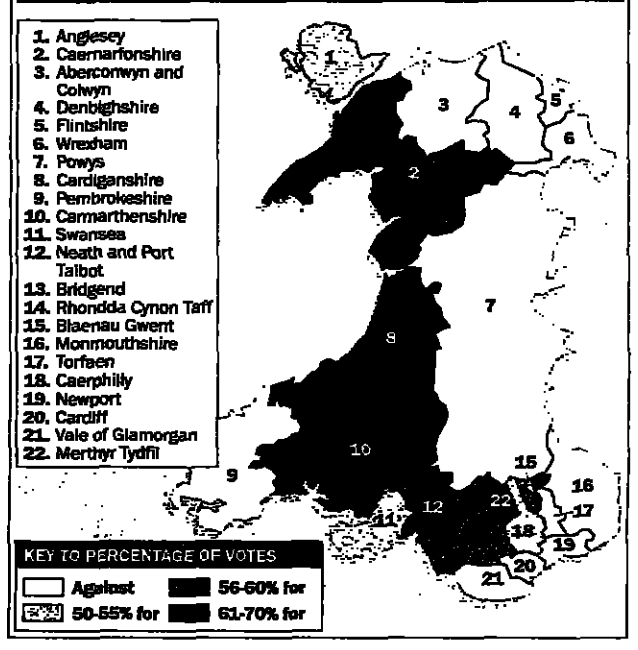
Tyrone O'Sullivan, who led a workers' buy-out of the Tower Colliery at Hirwaun, Mid Glamorgan, in 1995, was a leading light of the "Yes" campaign. Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, may wish to stand, while Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Plaid Cymru MP, indicated that his MPs would want to give other party members a chance.

The assembly will also provide a lifeline to Conservatives such as Stuart Andrew, 25, who spearheaded the successful "No" campaign in Wrexham, North Wales.

CHRIS HARRIS

"Yes" campaigners in Cardiff celebrating the final referendum result in the early hours of yesterday morning

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN



1. Anglesey
2. Caernarfonshire
3. Aberconwyn and Colwyn
4. Denbighshire
5. Flintshire
6. Wrexham
7. Powys
8. Cardiganshire
9. Pembrokeshire
10. Carmarthenshire
11. Swansea
12. Neath and Port Talbot
13. Bridgend
14. Rhondda Cynon Taff
15. Blaenau Gwent
16. Monmouthshire
17. Torfaen
18. Caerphilly
19. Newport
20. Cardiff
21. Vale of Glamorgan
22. Merthyr Tydfil

KEY TO PERCENTAGE OF VOTES

☐ Against	■ 56-60% for
▨ 50-55% for	■ 61-70% for

HOW WALES VOTED

Blaenau Gwent: 15,237 (56.09%) yes; 11,928 (43.91%) no. Electorate 55,089; turnout 27,165 (49.31%).

Bridgend: 27,632 (54.39%) Y, 23,172 (45.61%) N. 50,804; (50.60%) of 100,400 voted.

Caerphilly: 34,830 (54.70%) Y, 28,841 (45.30%) N. 63,671; (49.33%) of 129,060 voted.

Cardiff: 47,527 (44.37%) Y, 59,589 (55.63%) N. 107,116; (46.86%) of 228,571 voted.

Carmarthenshire: 49,115 (65.28%) Y, 26,119 (34.72%) N. 133,467; (56.37%) of 75,234 voted.

Cardiganshire: 18,304 (59.20%) Y, 12,614 (40.80%) N. 54,440; (56.79%) of 30,918 voted.

Aberconwyn & Colwyn: 18,369 (40.92%) Y, 26,521 (59.08%) N. 87,231; (51.46%) of 44,890 voted.

Denbighshire: 14,271 (40.77%) Y, 20,732 (59.23%) N. 70,410; (49.71%) of 35,003 voted.

Flintshire: 17,746 (38.20%) Y, 28,707 (61.80%) N. 113,181; (41.04%) of46,453 voted.

Caernarfonshire & Merionethshire: 35,425 (64.08%) Y, 19,859 (35.92%) N. 92,520; (59.75%) of55,284 voted.

Anglesey: 15,649 (50.90%) Y, 15,095 (49.10%) N. 54,044; (56.89%) of 30,744 voted.

Merthyr Tydfil: 12,707 (58.21%) Y, 9,121 (41.79%) N. 44,107; (49.49%) of21,828 voted.

Monmouthshire: 10,592 (32.10%) Y, 22,403 (67.90%) N. 65,309; (50.52%) of 32,995 voted.

Neath & Port Talbot: 36,730 (66.55%) Y, 18,463 (33.45%) N. 106,333; (51.91%) of 55,193 voted.

Newport: 16,172 (37.44%) Y, 27,017 (62.56%) N. 94,094; (45.90%) of 43,189 voted.

Pembrokeshire: 19,979 (42.79%) Y, 26,712 (57.21%) N. 88,720; (52.63%) of 46,691 voted.

Powys: 23,038 (42.66%) Y, 30,966 (57.34%) N. 96,107; (56.19%) of 54,004 voted.

Rhondda Cynon Taff: 51,201 (58.47%) Y, 36,362 (41.53%) N. 175,639; (49.85%) of 87,563 voted.

Swansea: 42,789 (51.96%) Y, 39,561 (48.04%) N. 174,725; (47.13%) of 82,350 voted.

Torfaen: 15,756 (49.84%) Y, 15,854 (50.16%) N. 69,505; (45.48%) of 31,610 voted.

Vale of Glamorgan: 17,776 (36.74%) Y, 30,613 (63.26%) N. 89,111; (54.30%) of 48,389 voted.

Wrexham: 18,574 (45.28%) Y, 22,449 (54.72%) N. 98,787; (42.38%) of 41,023 voted.

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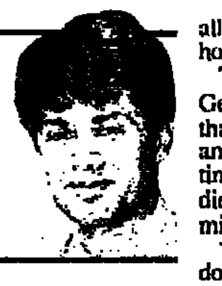
Plea by 'Unabomber' victim

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

NEW YORK



"I CAN *no longer* cut food with a knife or tie shoelaces. It is hard to wash your hands when you are down to only one."

The author of these words is David Gelernter, a professor of computer science at Yale University, whose right hand and right eye were destroyed by a parcel bomb sent to him in June 1993 by the "Unabomber", the villainous Luddite believed to be responsible for killing three people and injuring 23 during a letter-bombing career spanning 18 years.

Dr Gelernter has written an account of his brush with death, published here yesterday. Called *Drawing Life: Surviving the Unabomber*, the book is a bitter and moving exhortation to be "judgmental" again, directed at all Americans. Unwilling to cast himself as a "victim", he has used his own case as a metaphor for all that is wrong with modern, bleeding-heart, politically correct America. What does Dr Gelernter mean by "judgmental"?

He means a return to a clear sense of good and bad, of right and wrong, a sense by which the actions of criminals are not perceived automatically as the product of "victimhood" and "deprivation". In perhaps the most powerful sentence of his book, he writes: "A society too squeamish to call evil by its right name has destroyed its best first defence against cut-throats".

Dr Gelernter reserves particular ire for the press, taking newspapers to task for describing Theodore Kaczynski — the Harvard-educated Montana recluse who is now charged with the "Unabomber" crimes — as a "mad genius". This notion of madness is, for him, "exculpatory", one which lets his alleged assailant off the moral hook.

The naked anger of Dr Gelernter's writing ensures that his book is disquieting and endearing at the same time. He says: "For what he did to me, I wouldn't dirty my mind thinking about him.

"For what he could have done to my boys and my wife, I would strangle him with my bare hands, if I had the hands left."

Mr Kaczynski's trial begins next month, and Dr Gelernter intends to testify against him "with horror and dread and grim resolution".

In a bleak passage halfway through his book, he writes: "I would sentence him to death."

☐ *Drawing Life: Surviving the Unabomber, by David Gelernter, Free Press, New York, $21 (£13).*

David Gelernter: he wants Americans to become "judgmental" again

☐ Arthur Miller, right, who knows a thing or two about *les femmes*, believes the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, is a perfect dramatic subject. Miller, 81, declared: "Diana was beautiful: she looked great, and she tried to buck the Establishment." Might we soon have *The Windsor Crucible*?

Game dices with green rage

TO THE delight of the perverse, a new board game has hit this city, named "Dog Eat Dog". Players take on the role of a black-hearted corporate industrialist who must: (a) embezzle as much as he can from the company; and (b) destroy as much of the environment as possible. Participants compete to make "widgets", and must design them in such a way as to make green groups apoplectic. A winning widget might be made from a mix of baby seal fur, snowy owl feathers, Red Dye No.2 and nicotine.

No parades please, we are British

SORTLY after I arrived in New York some months ago, Mr Gomez, my barber, said this to me while addressing my chin with a sharpish razor: "You work for a British paper ... why don't you tell them to start a campaign for a 'British Pride' parade in Manhattan?"

Outside, a raucous parade raged — Puerto Ricans or Dominicans — and the sights and sounds of small-island pride were there for all to savour. I wondered why "British Americans" never do this sort of thing. After all, there is an ethnic pride parade in New York virtually every week.

That puzzlement was kindled afresh last week when, wandering down Fifth Avenue with a friend, I chanced upon the "German Pride" parade, with ruddy men and women rejoicing good-naturedly in their "Germanness", many wearing archaic German costume. I remarked how uplifting it would be to witness a sea of parading bowlers, flat caps and Union Jacks. "That would never happen here," she said.

An elderly member of New York's tribe of "confirmed British bachelors" later said: "Don't even think of it, dear boy. It's enough that we run most of New York's magazines and publishing houses, and so much of Wall Street. A march down Fifth Avenue would be the last straw. The only thing we can parade is our reserve. Always remember that."

Boat Race crews hit rough patch up the Amazon

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN MANAUS

THE choppy, piranha-infested waters of the Amazon may turn out to be the least of the problems faced by the Oxford and Cambridge oarsmen who are due to restage the Boat Race here tomorrow.

The crews face an arduous seven-and-a-half-mile course with patched-up boats, using shorter and lighter women's oars, and having had almost no practice in the tropical heat. The 52ft fibreglass boats only arrived in Manaus, capital of the Amazon, late on Thursday, with several holes in their bows and stern.

The regatta, in which Oxford and Cambridge will test their old rivalries and also compete against a Brazilian crew, was sponsored by the Amazon authorities, keen to encourage rowing in the region. But they failed to foresee the hazards of bringing crews and equipment into such a remote area.

The oars were broken by baggage handlers. The equipment had been ordered from Miami, where US customs officials apparently refused to allow the boats to be loaded on to aircraft in protective wooden containers for "security reasons".

"Rowing the hazardous course in tropical heat, with shorter oars and patched-up boats, will be a difficult challenge," said Charlie Humphreys, 20, one of the Oxford eight, who took part in this year's race on the Thames. "It's never been done before. It will be difficult not to sink."

His team-mate, Paul Berger, said: "We've had no time to practise. There have been no boats, and on top of that the oars arrived in pieces."

A fisherman has been found to patch up the holes in the boats and 16 oars have been found. But yesterday afternoon, the rowers were still hoping for a chance to practise at least once before the race, which 30,000 spectators are expected to watch.

"We're not worried about piranhas and mosquitoes any more. We will just have to try to see whether we can make it to the finish line," said Mr Humphreys.

The varsity boats face testing competition from the Brazilian crew, who are more acclimatised to the high temperatures and who have managed to deliver their oars and boat safely to Manaus.

"The heat will be an obstacle. We may have to come to some gentlemen's agreement about stopping at one point to drink water," said Nick Burfitt, the Cambridge team coach.

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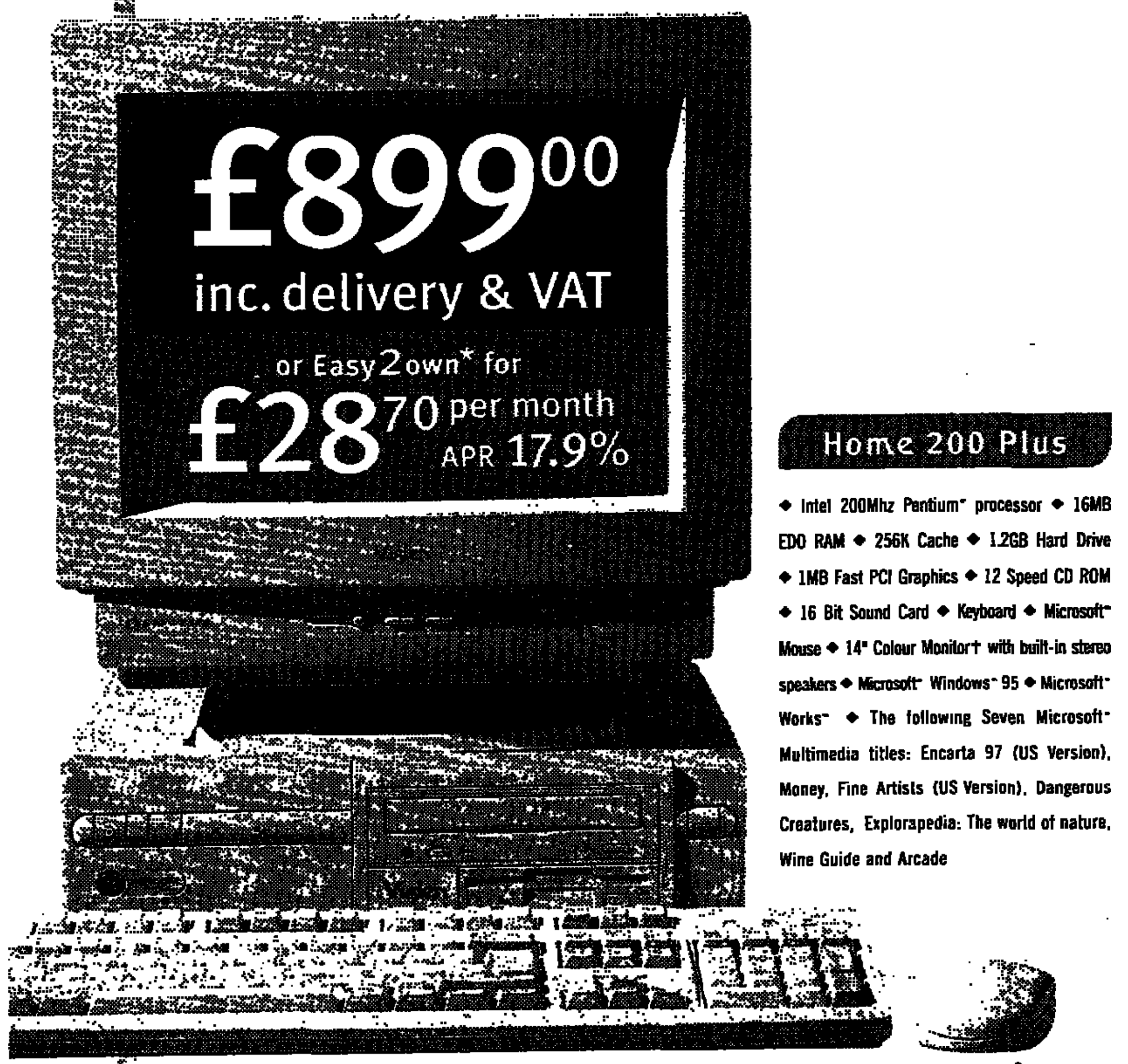

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Henri Paul, who will be buried in Lorient today

Last rites for fallen local hero

Lorient feels its native son has been made a scapegoat for the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, **Ben Macintyre** writes

PETER NICHOLLS

A heavy police presence will ensure photographers are kept well away from the funeral and burial

A SMALL notice appeared in the Lorient newspaper this week, informing readers of the death of a local man, Henri Paul.

Seldom can an announcement have been so unnecessary, for it is impossible to find a soul in this Brittany port who does not know that M Paul is dead, that he was at the wheel in the car crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, and that he was drunk.

For three weeks, as evidence of M Paul's responsibility has steadily mounted, the shock and dismay of people in his home town have given way to bitter resentment that the world's obloquy has focused on a single dead man, a native son who made good but who has now come to symbolise exactly the reverse.

M Paul, 41, will be buried in a Lorient cemetery today, exactly two weeks after the Princess, after a funeral that was repeatedly delayed while police scientists tested and retested the body for drink and drugs, and the world's media launched a detailed examination into M Paul's past, his personality and his habits.

The deputy security director of the Paris Ritz and occasional chauffeur died with paparazzi, now under investigation on manslaughter charges, allegedly snapping photographs around him in the tunnel beneath the Pont de l'Alma. Police in Lorient are determined to prevent a similar scene from taking place at his funeral.

Photographers have been banned from the Keryado cemetery by order of the prefect, and barriers were erected yesterday around the nearby Eglise Sainte-Thérèse, where the funeral service will take place.

M Paul's family has voiced fears that someone may try to "avenge" the Princess's death during the ceremony, and additional officers have been brought in to keep back the press and an over-inquisitive public.

The bearded cemetery attendant at the church said: "If a photographer sets foot in here, the police will be on them in two minutes flat.

Many locals say that M Paul has been made a scapegoat. Others argue that a tragedy is becoming a posthumous witch-hunt. "It's absurd. Look, if anyone else had been in the back of that car, this would have got two lines in the local paper, if that," the cemetery keeper said. Spokesmen and lawyers employed by Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of the Ritz — so vocal in M Paul's defence at the outset — have fallen silent on the subject of the driver since tests confirmed he was driving with more than three times the legal limit of alcohol in his blood.

Dominique Mèlo, a close friend of M Paul for 25 years and the family's spokesman, has been left to defend the reputation of the dead man almost singlehandedly, and not always adroitly.

"It often happened that we would go for a drive after a boozy lunch together. It was always Henri who drove, without the slightest problem," M Mélo said this week.

M Paul was a success story in Lorient, with its high unemployment, dying fishing fleet and closed naval submarine base. His job was glamorous beyond the wildest dreams of his contemporaries.

But if M Paul was a big man in his home town, he was something else in Paris: living alone in his small bachelor flat, on a salary that was far from princely, he has emerged as a secretive and somewhat lonely individual with humdrum pleasures.

Parts of the press have sought to portray him as a villain, a "speed freak", an habitual drunk or a man driven to alcohol and anti-depressant drugs by a failed love affair.

The truth was probably less dramatic. M Paul plainly enjoyed food and drink — he has been consistently described as a *bon vivant* — but police say there is little evidence to suggest that he was an alcoholic.

In Lorient he kept a powerful motorcycle, but in Paris he drove a battered Mini. One long-term relationship had broken up, but fully two years ago. He was seeing another woman, according to friends.

At the Ritz, where he worked for 11 years after quitting the French Air Force, he kept his nose studiously clean, and colleagues said that he particularly relished what he considered his close relationship with Dodi Fayed.

There is every reason to suppose that M Paul was celebrating, in a small but bibulous way, on the afternoon and evening of August 30, having successfully helped to bring his employer and the Princess of Wales back from Le Bourget airport. Then his mobile telephone rang recalling him to the Ritz, and he obeyed at once.

Perhaps, in the end, that was the banal key to the tragedy: a man from a small-town background, so proud of his job that he could not say no, even when his life, and the lives of others, depended on it.

The service will be held at Eglise Sainte-Thérèse

PHOTOGRAPHY MAX FORSYTHE

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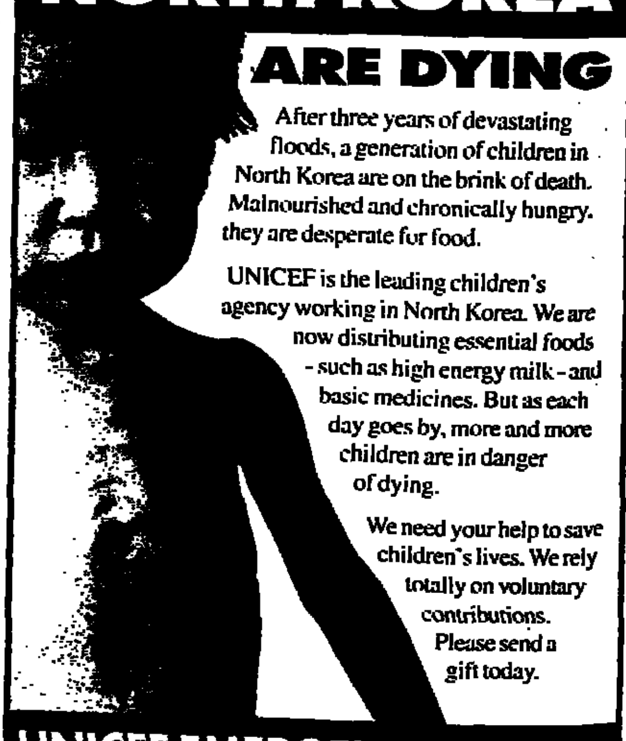

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هكذا من الأصل

Media mogul Turner gives UN $1bn and challenges rich to follow suit

From James Bone in New York

TED TURNER, the American media mogul and self-proclaimed "one-worlder", electrified the United Nations yesterday by announcing that he would donate $1 billion (£625 million) to UN causes, such as refugees, the protection of the ozone layer and landmine clearance. The billionaire, who is married to Jane Fonda, the actress, said the gift represented his profits from the stock market this year. The money will be paid in annual instalments of $100 million over the next ten years.

"I thought it would be exciting to just give it away," he said. "It's a nice round number. I'm not poorer than I was nine months ago, and the world is going to be a lot better off." Mr Turner, 58, founded Cable News Network (CNN) and then merged his holdings with Time Warner, becoming the company's vice-chairman. His net worth is $3.2 billion.

Sometimes known as "Captain Outrageous", he once described becoming a billionaire as less pleasurable than "bad sex". He recently chided his fellow tycoons for being more interested in where they came in magazine rankings of the super-rich than in using their money for good works.

Mr Turner made his announcement at a black-tie dinner in New York thrown by the UN Association of the United States, at which he was awarded the group's Global Leadership Award. Speaking later on CNN, he said: "I got the idea 48 hours ago . . . on the spur of the moment, like deciding to buy a car." The first person he told was his wife. "It brought tears to her eyes," he said. "She said, 'I'm proud to be married to you'."

The donation, in the form of Time Warner stock, will be channelled to UN causes through a foundation that will work with UN committees. Mr Turner promised to try to augment his gift with funds from other captains of industry, saying: "If you're rich, you can expect a letter or a call from me. There's a lot of people out there who are awash in money. They don't know what to do with," Mr Turner said.

"I have learnt, the more good that I did, the more money comes in. You have to learn to give. You're not born as a giver. You're born selfish." Mr Turner said his money would fund UN programmes, not its regular budget, and said Washington should still pay its $1.5 billion in outstanding UN dues.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, said Mr Turner's gift was "noble and extraordinary".

Clinton to honour colour-bar victims

From Ian Brodie in Washington

White students jeer at Jefferson Thomas, one of the blacks caught up in the confrontation over school integration in Little Rock 40 years ago

PRESIDENT CLINTON will go home to Arkansas next week to commemorate the day it took 1,000 paratroops with fixed bayonets to enable nine black children to go to school.

He will stand on the steps of Central High School in Little Rock where, 40 years ago, federal power was first used to thwart racial hatred.

The Little Rock Nine, now in their fifties, will once again approach the school but this time, in a poignant gesture of racial healing, Mr Clinton will hold the door open for them.

The civil rights showdown at Central High pitted a white mob and Orval Faubus, the racist Governor of Arkansas, against the resolution of President Eisenhower, the former D-Day commander who was determined to uphold the law.

Events had deteriorated rapidly as the summer of 1957 waned. On September 4, Faubus called out the Arkansas National Guard to bar the nine from entering the all-white school. On September 21 he removed the Guard on court orders. Next day, the nine went to school but were withdrawn by police fearing a riot. On September 24, Eisenhower sent two battalions of the 101st Airborne Division to enforce a US Supreme Court ruling that segregation in state schools was unconstitutional.

Despite the show of force, the civil rights showdown was savage and brutal for the nine teenagers. Melba Beals remembers running in terror from a white gang with a rope, convinced they wanted to lynch her and her mother.

She endured almost daily abuse from white students. Acid was thrown in her face. Near-boiling water was turned on her in the shower. Whites trod on the blacks' heels as they walked to school until they bled. A white girl who shared her books with the blacks was pelted with stones.

Ms Beals fled to a Quaker family in California after a warning that segregationists had put a bounty of $10,000 on her head. Now a journalist and author, she said: "I remember Central High as a torture chamber." Her recollections were so painful that she put off writing a book for 30 years. "When I finally started, I cried so much I thought there would be nothing left of me but a tiny brown river," she said. Even now she feels some apprehension about returning to Little Rock.

For Mr Clinton the occasion will highlight his year-long campaign to bridge America's racial divisions. He has called for a "great and unprecedented conversation" about race to dissect the issues polarising Americans and, he hopes, transform prejudice into a promise of unity.

Mr Clinton was an Arkansas boy of 11 when Eisenhower, a Republican, took his stand against Faubus, declaring: "Mob rule cannot override the decisions of our courts."

Violence subsided as the troops moved in but some units stayed throughout the school year. The following year, Faubus closed the Little Rock high schools under a new law passed by his lackeys. The measure was eventually declared illegal and blacks slowly filtered into white schools without incident.

By the time Faubus died unrepentant in 1994, Mr Clinton had been Governor 12 years and was in the White House with the help of black voters. The nine, six women and three men, are all successful but only one, a social worker, remains in Little Rock. Today Central High, once a stately structure, is shoddy. Its student body is 60 per cent black, 40 per cent white. Whites prevail in honours classes, prompting some to complain that there is still segregation within the walls.

The neighbourhood, once white and middle-class, is black, poor and infested with gangs. Mr Clinton says that when he leaves the White House, beautification of Little Rock will be one of his causes.

Deputy moves up Beijing hierarchy

From James Pringle in Beijing

ZHU RONGJI, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, has moved up to third place in the Communist Party hierarchy, virtually assuring him of the premiership next year, diplomats here said.

The move followed the selection of a new all-powerful, seven-member standing committee of the Politburo yesterday. Mr Zhu, 69, is the country's economic tsar and was previously known — to his chagrin — as "China's Gorbachev" for his pragmatism and the way he defused pro-democracy demonstrations in Shanghai in 1989 without resorting to the military. He is probably the biggest benefactor of the reshuffle that has taken place at the end of the 15th party congress.

Mr Zhu was previously in fifth place in the leadership, but moved up two notches with the fall of Qiao Shi, a former security apparatchik and chairman of China's parliament. Mr Qiao, a critic of President Jiang Zemin, lost his place on the Central Committee on Thursday.

Leading article, page 25

More terror attacks in Egypt

By Christopher Walker
***Middle East* Correspondent**

SUSPECTED Islamic militants intent on destabilising the regime of President Mubarak yesterday killed one policeman and wounded three others in two separate attacks in southern Egypt. The incidents happened less than 24 hours after militants were accused of mounting an attack in central Cairo that killed nine German tourists and their Egyptian coach driver.

After that attack, British tourists were moved from Cairo to Upper Egypt in the belief that they would be safer there. One British firm, Thomson Holidays, cancelled further departures for Egypt.

The first attack yesterday occurred in the town of Dairut, between Minya and Assiut about 175 miles south of Cairo, a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalism. Gunmen believed to be members of the main Islamic group, Gamaa al-Islamiya, machinegunned the police car as officers were delivering breakfast to men on duty outside the courthouse. One was killed and another wounded.

A few hours later, another group of gunmen shot at a police car patrolling the road between two villages near Mallawi. Two police officers were wounded.

Western security experts said the attacks were in defiance of government claims to have got terrorism under control.

☐ Hebron riots: Palestinian anger at a deal enabling ten religious Jewish students to remain indefinitely in two houses in a Palestinian area of annexed east Jerusalem prompted riots yesterday in the West Bank city of Hebron, where Israeli troops fired teargas to disperse stone-throwers.

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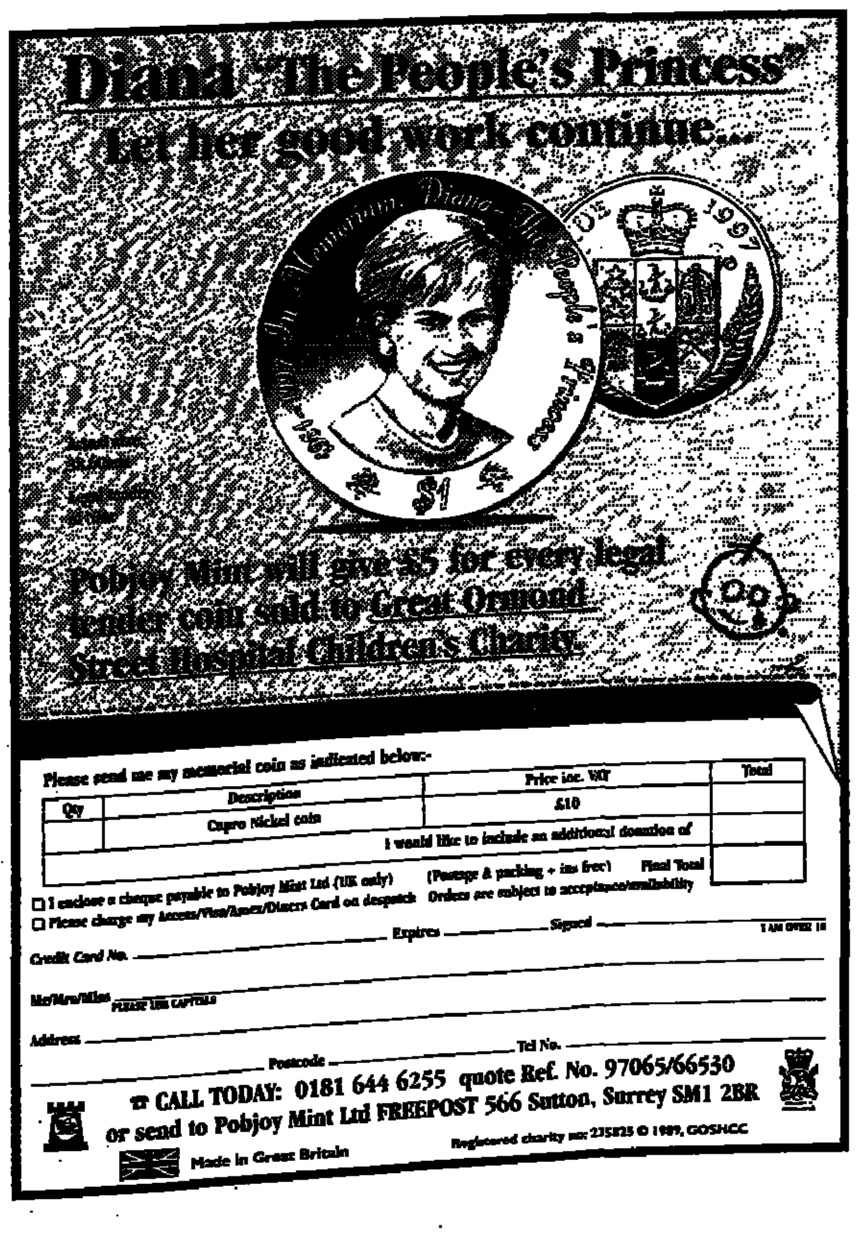

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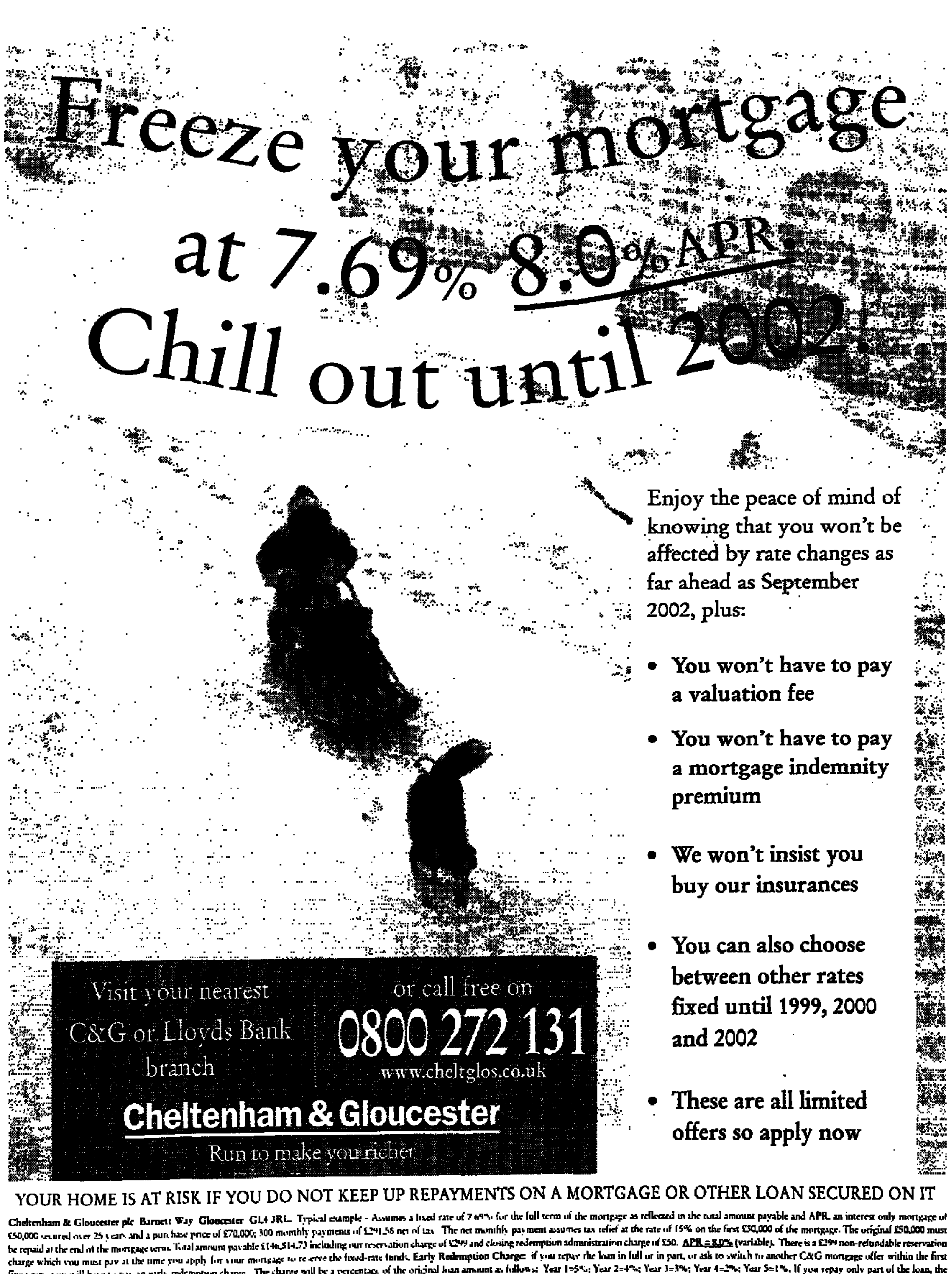

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Chiantishire joins hi-tech California

Winegrowers labour to meet rapid rise in demand, writes **Richard Owen** in Rufina, Tuscany

IN THE sunlit valley of the Arno near Florence they are already halfway through the grape harvest, two weeks ahead of schedule. Thanks to a run of hot, dry summer days and cool, breezy nights, Italy is heading for its best vintage since 1947, and the clusters of black San Giovese grapes are luscious, lustrous and bursting with juice.

"The 1997 harvest is the best for half a century — a truly great vintage," says Marchese Leonardo Frescobaldi as he parks his Mercedes and strides through the rows of vines. "Italian wine is on the up and up. The only problem is we cannot meet the demand."

Nearby, bulldozers are frantically clearing vast southwest-facing slopes on the Frescobaldis' Castello di Nipozzano estate, ready for the planting of new vines. But it will take several years for the vines to bear fruit, and the boom in Italian wine has caught the winemakers unprepared.

"Many of the vineyards in Tuscany are 30 years old and badly need replacing," the Marchese says.

According to Luigi Veronelli, one of Italy's leading wine writers, the market for quality wine is growing "as consumers become more sophisticated". But the quantity has fallen, partly because of a sharp frost in April, but mainly because a third of Italian vineyards have been dug up or abandoned in a deliberate move to reverse the dire reputation Italy acquired in the 1980s for overproduction of low-quality wine.

The Frescobaldis' answer to the demand — brought on, in the Marchese's view, by the world's appetite for Italian wine as part of a "healthy Mediterranean diet" which includes olive oil and tomatoes — is a radical marriage between the centuries-old tradition of European wine-making and the brash, hi-tech world of California wines.

On Monday the Frescobaldi label is to launch a joint venture with Robert Mondavi, a Californian winery founded 30 years ago. The result, a red wine called "Luce" (Light) to be unveiled in Europe and the United States (and in Britain in November), does not look like a Tuscan wine: to the horror of traditionalists, the futuristic bottle simply bears the one word "Luce" in a flamboyant golden starburst. "You don't call wine 'Light'," said one rival Chianti producer in disgust. "You call it after your estate."

The Frescobaldis are unrepentant, perhaps because they have the confidence of a family which can trace a continuous wine tradition to the 12th century. They still own the Palazzo Frescobaldi near the Ponte Vecchio in Florence; the Castello di Nipozzano was founded in the 10th century. In the 13th century they became bankers to the English crown, lending huge sums to Edward I and Edward II. They had the right to collect English taxes and mint English coinage.

When the Frescobaldis fell out with London in the 14th century, they took their revenge as they withdrew across the Channel by requisitioning all available supplies of claret in Bordeaux, thus depriving the English court of wine for years. The present relationship is happier, fuelled by the "Chiantishire effect"; Tony Blair is a regular visitor to Tuscany, as is the Prince of Wales, who has planted olive trees at Nipozzano. The three present Frescobaldi brothers — Leonardo, Vittorio and Ferdinando — run the family's nine estates together, with Leonardo in charge of marketing. In 1989 they bought an estate in the wilder landscape of Montalcino, farther south, which produces Brunello, perhaps Italy's best wine, prized among others by Henry Kissinger and Frank Sinatra.

The Californian link is strengthened by Vittorio's son, Lamberto, who studied enology at Davis and is overseeing the new vine plantings. Like other Tuscan producers, the Frescobaldis are looking to new markets in Asia as well as Europe and the US. "But Europeans must not lose sight of the market value of tradition," said Leonardo.

Wine tasting, Weekend

CHRIS WARDE-JONES

Marchese Leonardo Frescobaldi with San Giovese grapes at the family estate in Tuscany, where harvesting has started early

Spain clears decks for year of tribute to Armada King

FROM GILES TREMLETT IN MADRID

SPAIN is planning a full year of celebrations to mark 400th anniversary next year of the death of Philip II, husband of Queen Mary Tudor and instigator of the Spanish Armada.

"Mary will, of course, have a place in the events," said a spokesman for the state company that has been set up to organise the celebrations.

Philip had been King for 42 years when he died. He was buried at the imposing granite monastery he built at El Escorial, near Madrid. He is remembered in Spain as an austere, pious king who ruled a great and wealthy empire. He also became a zealous backer of the Spanish Inquisition, pursuing Jews, Moors and Protestants with equal fervour.

He married the Catholic and half-Spanish Mary at Winchester Cathedral in July 1554. Philip was a prince at the time, while Mary was already Queen of England. Philip's father, the Habsburg Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, arranged the marriage in the hope that Philip would effectively gain control of England.

Charles abdicated in favour of his son two years later. Two years after that Mary died. The marriage was childless and relations between Britain and Spain went downhill for the rest of his reign.

Philip eventually became an arch-enemy of his wife's successor, Elizabeth I. In 1588 he sent the so-called Invincible Armada on its ill-fated expedition against England.

British historians have traditionally treated Philip as a villain. The Victorian, J.L. Motley, considered him "a consummate tyrant" as well as "grossly licentious".

King Juan Carlos and other members of the Spanish Royal Family are expected to play a full part in the anniversary celebrations. The Royal Monastery at El Escorial will house a commemorative exhibition. The Prado Museum in Madrid is to dedicate a special show to "Philip II, a Renaissance Prince".

The Prado show, to open in May next year, will be organised by Fernando Checa, the director. Philip was a patron of artists.

Musical and theatrical events are also being organised. Organisers were unable to say whether Verdi's *Don Carlos*, which paints Philip as an autocratic and pessimistic ruler, would be among the works on offer.

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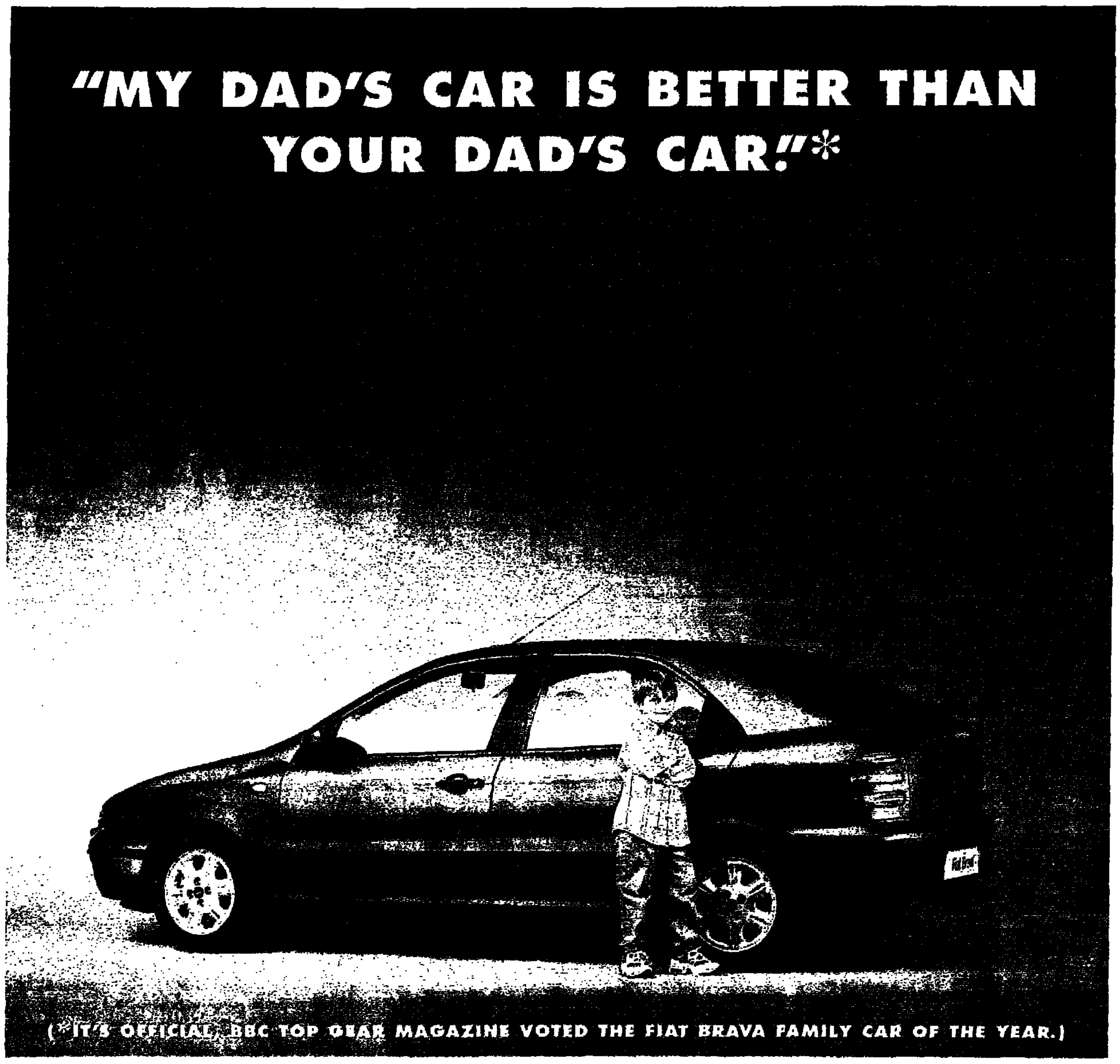
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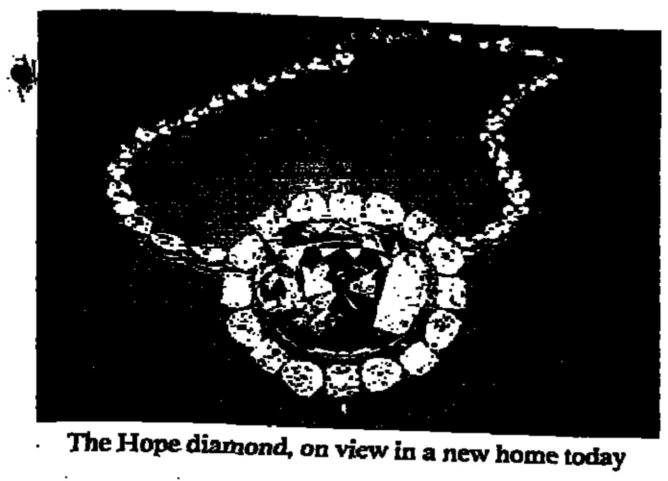


The Hope diamond, on view in a new home today

Top-secret guard for 'fatal' gem

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

ED BAILEY / AP

Armed men guard the diamond when shown in New York by its previous owner, jeweller Harry Winston

FRESHLY buffed, scrubbed, boiled and steamed, the Hope diamond today takes centre stage as the crown of America's jewels in a new Washington home guarded by a unique security system.

The deep smoky blue gem, its 74 facets glittering in a diamond and platinum setting, rotates slowly in its display case at the centre of a 20,000 sq ft hall which opens in Washington's National Museum of Natural History at noon.

All that stands between the tourist and the treasure is a beige marble display case and the same thick, water-clear glass used in the Tower of London for the Crown Jewels. Until two years ago, the Hope diamond had been housed in a safe, visible from only one angle.

Today it can be viewed from all sides and, at the first sign of a threat, will drop into the case's vault-like base, a $500,000 (£310,000) design donated to the Smithsonian Institution by the company which has guarded the diamond since it was given to the Natural History museum in 1958.

Most of the security features are secret. The vault was *designed in sections* and constantly altered so that even its creators at Diebold Incorporated are not sure of every component. It takes at least two people to open a safe whose alarms will withstand the vibrations of millions of visitors but trip at the slightest sign of a crowbar.

The excitement has been hard to suppress among those involved in the two-year building of the $13 million Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals. The most ambitious modernisation project of a permanent exhibit in the Smithsonian's history, it is expected to draw vast crowds.

"The Hope diamond doesn't just sit there. It moves, sparkles, dazzles and glows a deep blue," said an enthusiastic Jeffrey Post, curator of the national gem collection. "It has this extraordinary appeal for everyone who sees it. People are fascinated by its history and by the mystery which has always surrounded it. We don't have a monarchy or Crown Jewels here, but the Hope diamond has become a proud part of our heritage. It is almost like an American Crown Jewel."

Before it was moved to its new home this week, the 45-carat gem attracted five million visitors a year — 4.7 million people visited the Louvre last year — drawn to the extraordinary blue tint, caused by an impurity, and eager to ponder its curse.

Discovered in India in the 17th century, the diamond was first sold to Louis XIV in 1668 as a 112-carat, roughly cut stone about three times its present size. He died soon afterwards, launching the myth that the diamond brought tragedy to its owners.

The trader who sold the gem was rumoured to have died in the jaws of a pack of wild dogs. Mr Post claims he died in his sleep.

Passed from one Bourbon to the next, it was cut to 68 carats and became known as the French Blue. Countess Du-Barry, Louis XV's mistress, wore the gem before she was beheaded during the French Revolution.

Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, its guillotined next owners, merely added to the myth of the curse, as did the theft of the stone in 1792. It mysteriously appeared in London exactly 20 years later, a period of amnesty decreed by the French for crimes committed during wartime.

George IV purchased the gem, went bankrupt, and died. The diamond was sold to to raise money for the King's debts and passed to the collection of Lord Henry Hope, the British banker after whom it was named and who, of course, died the same year. Francis Hope, the last family owner, was forced into bankruptcy. Moving during the next century among dealers in London, New York and Paris, the gem was finally sold for $180,000 to Evalyn Walsh McLean, a wealthy Washington socialite in 1911.

She blithely ignored its shadowy reputation, wearing the diamond everywhere, except when it was hidden among other jewels in her sofa. But her family, historians noted, seemed to suffer an unusual number of tragedies.

When she died after the Second World War, the Hope was bought by Harry Winston, a wealthy New York jeweller. He gave the stone to the Smithsonian Institution, posting it to Washington in a registered package carried by the US mail.

Three years ago, *Life* magazine attempted to value the gem. Some jewellers valued it at more than $200 million. "How can you put a value on something of such history and extraordinary attraction," Mr Post said. "It's priceless."

JEWELS OF GLITTERING RENOWN

WHILE the Hope is the most visited museum object in the world, other diamonds have gained equal fame. Those from India include:

☐ The Great Mogul, known only through the description of the French jeweller and traveller, Jean Tavernier.

☐ The Orlov, originally given to Catherine II of Russia.

☐ The Koh-i-noor, now among the English Crown Jewels.

☐ The Regent or Pitt.

Other notable gems include:

☐ The Cullinan, a South African diamond found and presented in 1907 to King Edward VII.

☐ The Dresden, a deep green diamond.

☐ The Tiffany, an orange-yellow stone.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Polish rivals level as campaign ends

Warsaw: Poland's parliamentary election campaign ended yesterday with the two main political rivals almost evenly matched in public support (Patricia Koza writes).

However, both the ruling post-Communist Democratic Left Alliance and the *opposition Solidarity Election Action* would need the help of minor parties in parliament to form the new government after Sunday's elections, in which all 460 seats in the Sejm, or lower house, and 100 in the Senate are being contested. The opposition grouping includes 36 right-wing and Christian parties and the Solidarity union. The Alliance and its coalition partner, the Polish Peasants' Party, has governed virtually unchallenged with a two thirds majority for the past four years.

Church curbs law agreed

Moscow: A law restricting the activities of "non-traditional" religious groups and enshrining the pre-eminence of the Russian Orthodox Church was overwhelming approved by the State Duma, the lower house of parliament (Robin Lodge writes). The Orthodox Church is vehemently opposed to the spread of "foreign" churches in Russia. Roman Catholics, Baptists, Adventists and Pentecostals oppose the law.

Mostar blast raises tension

Belgrade: Diplomats said yesterday that they feared an increase in Muslim-Croat violence after a car bomb explosion in the divided Bosnian city of Mostar (Tom Walker writes). The blast, said to have been the largest in Bosnia since the Dayton peace accord 22 months ago, demolished a block of flats in the Croat west bank of the city, injuring at least 50 people, 27 of them seriously.

Serbs seek a president

Belgrade: Serbs vote for a President to succeed Slobodan Milosevic tomorrow, with a close contest predicted between a socialist Milosevic puppet and an extreme-right nationalist (Tom Walker writes). The socialist coalition's candidate is Zoran Lilic, who faces Vojislav Seselj, an unashamed extremist, and Vuk Draskovic, figurehead of last winter's street demonstrations. A second run-off vote is likely.

Sarawak pollution alert

Kuching: Malaysia declared a state of emergency in its Borneo island state of Sarawak as smoke pollution from forest fires in Indonesia reached danger levels. In Kuching, Sarawak's capital, schools, businesses, government offices and airports were shut. Malaysia Airlines said flights to Kuching were cancelled or diverted. *(Reuters)*

Italian court rules husband to blame for wife's adultery

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

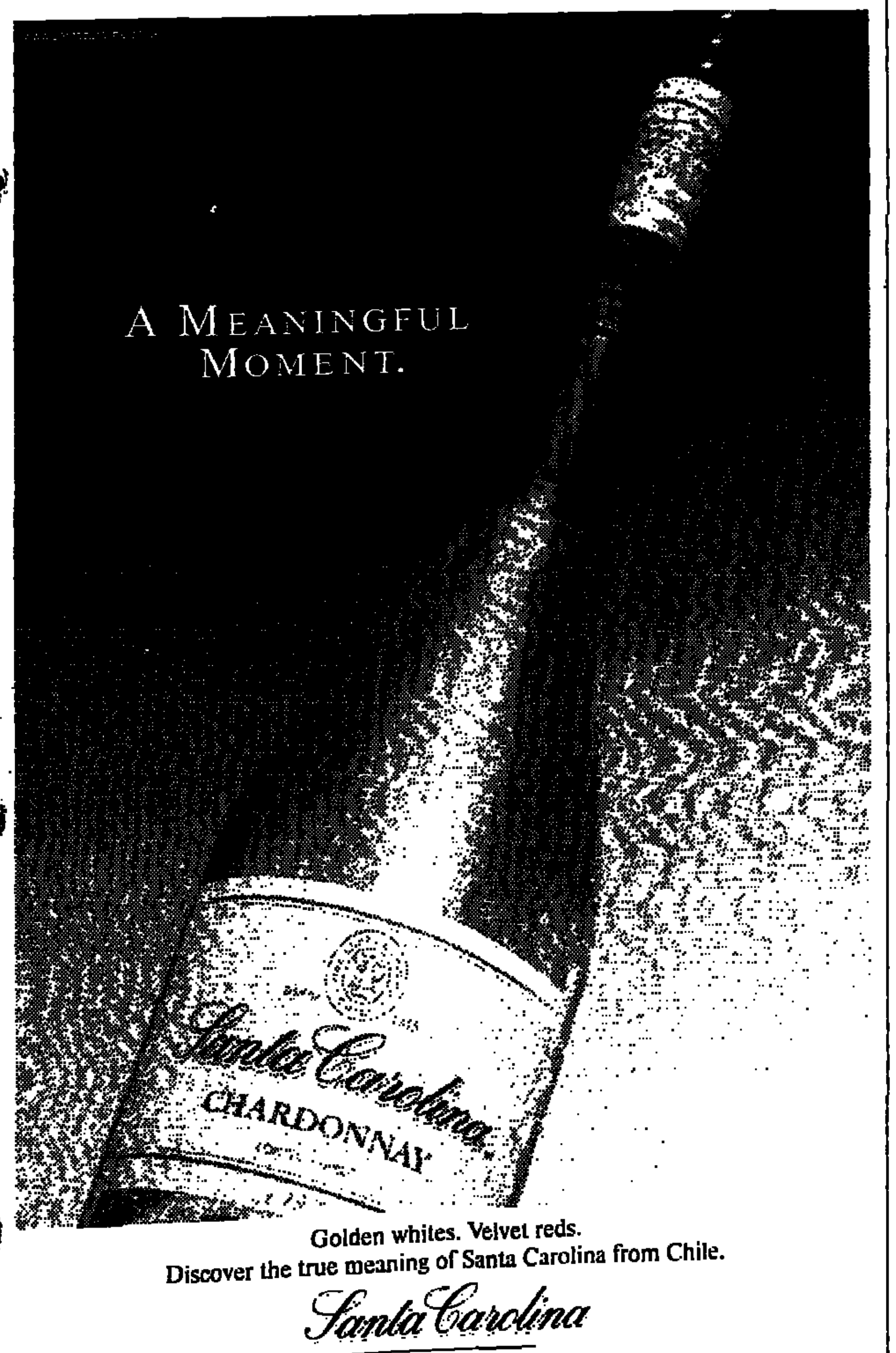
THE Italian Supreme Court yesterday laid down a radical redefinition of adultery, declaring that infidelity consists not only of sexual betrayal but also of behaviour "which damages the mutual trust, support and solidarity at the core of a marriage".

The judges said such behaviour includes physical and mental mistreatment of a spouse, excessive indulgence of personal interests at the expense of the shared activities involved in married life, and emotional involvement with another man or woman even where no extramarital sex takes place.

The Supreme Court, or Court of Cassation, has acquired a reputation for innovative rulings in social and family matters in Italy, where the law has traditionally been influenced by Roman Catholicism. The court was asked to rule on a divorce case in Ancona, on the Adriatic coast, where judges had decided that the husband was the aggrieved party, on the ground that his wife had admitted a sexual relationship with another man. The Ancona court said her adultery was the "sole cause" of the marriage breakdown.

The wife appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing that although it was true that she had been to bed with another man, the marriage had broken down before then because of her husband's "intolerable behaviour". She said the Ancona court had not taken into account the fact that her husband had a fierce temper and had mistreated her both physically and mentally.

The Supreme Court ruled that the husband was the guilty party in the failure of the marriage. "It is the duty of spouses in a marriage not to betray their reciprocal trust: that is, not to betray their spiritual and physical dedication to one another, which lasts as long as the marriage lasts," the judgment said.



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Sulphurous Tory rivalry in

The royal gaffe that started a bad seven days for William Hague had its roots in a power struggle among his top advisers, writes **Michael Gove**

Sunday 14th
A dog's breakfast with Frost – and William ends up with his foot in his mouth...

Monday 15th
Addressing his loyal supporters – William reads the riot act, but Cecil hasn't heard...

Tuesday 16th
The press think William's up the creek – and want to break his paddle...

CHRIS DUGGAN

THE Conservative Party hasn't had much to smile about this week, but William Hague did his best in Stockton on Thursday night. Trying to sell himself, and his reforms, to party activists, he deployed the laidback humour he mastered at the Oxford Union.

"Did you hear the Prime Minister could not get back across the Channel after his holiday? The water was too choppy for him to walk across."

The joke hit the spot as far as the activists were concerned, but however wittily it caught Labour arrogance, it also uncomfortably laid bare Tory frustration. Opposition has proved more difficult and disorientating than many Tories, although not Mr Hague himself, expected. Life without limousines has not been made any easier because Mr Blair's honeymoon with the electorate, far from having ended, has deepened into an unquestioning infatuation.

It was frustration at Labour's easy dominance and, in particular, the manner in which Mr Blair posthumously conscripted Diana, Princess of Wales for the People's Party that led the Tory leader to launch an attack on the Prime Minister last Sunday which was altogether less light-hearted than his Stockton sally.

In an interview with Sir David Frost, Mr Hague claimed Labour had "leaked confidential advice that puts the Government in a good light and the Royal Family in a bad light". It was, he argued, "shabby politics and bad government and ... no way to support the Royal Family in the future".

Mr Hague's comments provoked a torrent of criticism, some of the most wounding from within Tory ranks. But one controversial interview does not a crisis make. What turned the "Tories' Black Monday" into "William's wobbly week" was the sulphurous rivalry between senior Conservatives laid bare by their reactions to the Frost comments. The Tory Party became embroiled in a squabble, not over what the leader had said, but who had advised him to say it. Over the past week the Tory spin-doctors and strategists proved they have learnt something from new Labour — the real enemy is the enemy within.

The battle for William's ear is, like the Labour Party's internal struggle, a contest between old and new, but it has nothing to do with ideology and everything to do with approach.

The "new" faction are concentrated in the leader's office, the "old" in the party headquarters in Smith Square. The new boys are graduates of the Hague leadership campaign with backgrounds in pure politics — the leader's political secretary, George Osborne, a former adviser to Douglas Hogg and John Major; his chief of staff, Charles Hendry, a former MP and past special adviser and, at their head, Alan Duncan, the Rutland MP, who is the leader's parliamentary political secretary — the Tory Mandelson.

> ❛ The battle has nothing to do with ideology and everything to do with approach ❜

The old campaigners are experienced hands who have been drafted in to provide a bit of bottom. They include the chairman, Lord Parkinson, coaxed out of retirement to lend the Shadow Cabinet sagacity, and the party's head of communications, Francis Halewood, a former deputy editor of the *Today* programme hired to give the Tories' media operation the professional expertise of a seasoned journalist. Although all are Hague loyalists, there are pronounced tensions. One faction stalwart dismissed the other as a "nest of vipers".

Mr Hague's decision to criticise Mr Blair's handling of the death of the Princess reflected the thinking of Alan Duncan. It was Mr Duncan who briefed Simon Walters of the *Express on Sunday* that Labour had "embarrassed" the Queen. It was Mr Duncan who rang the Frost team to ensure they asked about the royals. Mr Duncan accompanied Mr Hague to the studio and subsequently defended the "no-nonsense" straight-talking of the leader. If Labour claimed to think the unthinkable, then the Tories would say the unsayable and give voice to the feeling in the country that Mr Blair was an opportunist humbug exploiting grief — the anger that dare not speak its name.

It has proved a high-risk strategy. Mr Duncan once told a friend, "I've been a Conservative since my balls dropped." He's needed them *this* week as *his* critics in the party have competed to do him down.

When he was first adopted as an MP, the Duke of Rutland praised him as a "proper little fighting bantam cock". This week other Tories have used different adjectives, and different four-letter words. Mr Duncan's closeness to Mr Hague, and his direct manner with those whose experience inclines them to offer different advice, has created jealousy among some colleagues and anger among other Conservatives. When they detected the Duncan hand behind the attack on Mr Blair, and sensed it backfiring, they saw an opportunity to take Mr Duncan down a peg or two.

Although the hostility to Mr Duncan and his friends is primarily personal, some of the arrows fired his way are tipped with ideological poison. A rigorous libertarian and fierce Eurosceptic, Mr Duncan has few fans on the Tory Left. When the former MP Hugh Dykes chose Monday to leave a Conservative Party in which he had been happy to serve as long as it kept him in the Commons, there were more mutterings among "moderates" at the "dangerous" rightward pull that Mr Hague's advisers exerted on him.

Mr Duncan was not alone in being in the Left's firing line, but he was cast as villain-in-chief by the Heathites — the Rasputin of the Right. That made all the more telling the icy criticism of Mr Hague's strategy voiced by Norman Tebbit, the Rocky Marciano of the Right, on Monday's *Today* programme. The former chairman thought Mr Hague's comments unwise. His unease reflected the feeling among the party's greybeards that an attack on Labour for exploiting the monarchy for political ends was, in itself, an exploitation of the monarchy for political ends.

The only difference was that the Conservatives had proved clumsier. Mr Duncan has always been happy to consider himself a "lightning conductor" for criticism. Indeed, he had fulfilled that role during Mr Hague's leadership campaign.

But the vitriol directed at his strategy on Monday was now lapping. Mr Hague had been due to spend Monday afternoon on a walkabout at Victoria Station. The photocall was hastily cancelled by his advisers, who recognised that different tactics were required. Mr Hague decided to turn a private meeting with activists in Central Office scheduled for

Continued on facing page

FAMINE IN NORTH KOREA
URGENT APPEAL FOR AID

For the third consecutive year the harvest in North Korea has been ruined by devastating floods. Many homes have been destroyed and millions of people face starvation. Already huge numbers of children are barely surviving on a diet of tree bark, grass and roots. The floods have also severely damaged the nation's health system leaving it ill-equipped to deal with malnourished and suffering children.

The people of North Korea are in desperate need. The Red Cross is organising emergency supplies of food to vulnerable groups and medical equipment to the failing health sector.

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fight for William's ear

From previous page

that night into a public platform for his counter-attack.

But while he stuck fluently to the script, his chairman departed from it. Interviewed on Monday's *Newsnight*, Lord Parkinson described his leader's most-outspoken political attack on Labour as a "personal statement" to which he had nothing "to add or subtract". One Tory frontbencher argued that it was a supportive intervention. But if Lord Parkinson was supporting Mr Hague it was as the rope supports the hanged man.

Lord Parkinson's was not the only distinguished Tory voice to admonish the young leader in Tuesday's newspapers. An editorial in *The Daily Telegraph* dismissed Mr Hague's idea that Heathrow be named after the Princess as "faintly Latin American" and pronounced that his handling of matters royal had shown him to be a "meaner" man.

Out in the country, there was evidence of wider disquiet. Although 700 activists gave Mr Hague an enthusiastic welcome to Nottingham on Tuesday night there were rumours in Central Office that some Tories would vote "no" in Mr Hague's back-me-or-sack-me reform referendum to signal their unhappiness with his comments on Frost.

For Mr Duncan's friends in the Hague court, the reaction to a stand they had thought brave and principled was infinitely depressing. One Hague aide confided that it was "the worst week in his political life".

Enemies were seen to lurk everywhere. The Hague team accepted that the media was not disposed to give their man the benefit of any doubt when a new Government could do so much to dazzle. There was, however, anger at the way reliance on the Downing Street dripfeed had made even independent-minded hacks fear to defy the Labour Party by accepting that Mr Hague had good grounds for his criticisms.

Hague advisers pointed to the date Mr Mandelson enjoyed with the *Channel 4 News* presenter Jon Snow before Snow broadcast a devastating portrait of a Royal Family at war, with Mr Blair the still small voice of sanity.

Mr Duncan's allies argued that those Conservatives who objected were in no position to criticise because the leader's team had made controversial points when they had hardly troubled the scorer at all.

Although Mr Duncan could never himself be accused of indolence, he soon found himself lambasted for arrogance. One Tory thought the allegation that colleagues had not pulled their weight was monstrous. There was speculation that Wednesday afternoon's Shadow Cabinet gathering would hear calls for Mr Duncan's head.

That lunchtime the condemned man ate a hearty meal. Over penne carbonara in the Millbank canteen, Mr Duncan outlined to a frontbench colleague the method in what the media had thought madness.

Mr Duncan accepted that Mr Hague would never rival Mr Blair in popularity by telling uncomfortable truths but argued that it would be folly, and unprincipled folly at that, for the Tories to try to take Tony on in a hugging contest. Labour might enjoy stratospheric support by indulging in the politics of pandering, riding every fashionable wave, but they could not fool all of the people all of the time.

The Tories should not try to win affection, but respect, for their principled plain-speaking. As the party that had not been afraid to tell the truth they would come to be trusted. This "Cassandra Conservatism" suited Mr Hague's blunt Yorkshire manner and was already winning support from the nation's quietly conservative majority who were beginning to be offended by Labour's showy populism.

Whatever the merits of Mr Duncan's arguments, they did not, in the end, need to be defended at Wednesday's Shadow Cabinet. By Wednesday afternoon senior members of the Shadow Cabinet were more intent on preparations for forthcoming speeches than raking over the words of the past week. At their meeting, discussion was dominated by a presentation from Lord Parkinson of the proposed internal reforms. Mr Duncan's name, and the wisdom of Sunday's intervention, were not mentioned.

> 6 The tensions at the top of the party would not fade with the memory of the interview 9

The issue was not, however, closed. Journalists who had expected that Mr Halewood would brief them after the Shadow Cabinet meeting were informed before it began that it was not the usual practice to brief afterwards.

There was some surprise, not least from Central Office, when a briefing was hastily arranged. There was even greater surprise when it was Mr Duncan, and not Mr Halewood, who did the job. Far from being a recondite question of spin-doctor precedence, it was an indication that the tensions at the top of the Tory Party would not fade with the memory of Sunday's interview.

The battles at the beginning of this week suggest the Tories have not lost the taste for introspection and in-fighting which contributed to their defeat. The sound of scrapping has now drawn other old bruisers into the fray. Although Mr Hague enjoyed a temporary fillip on Friday morning with the poor devolution result in Wales, his troubles are far from over.

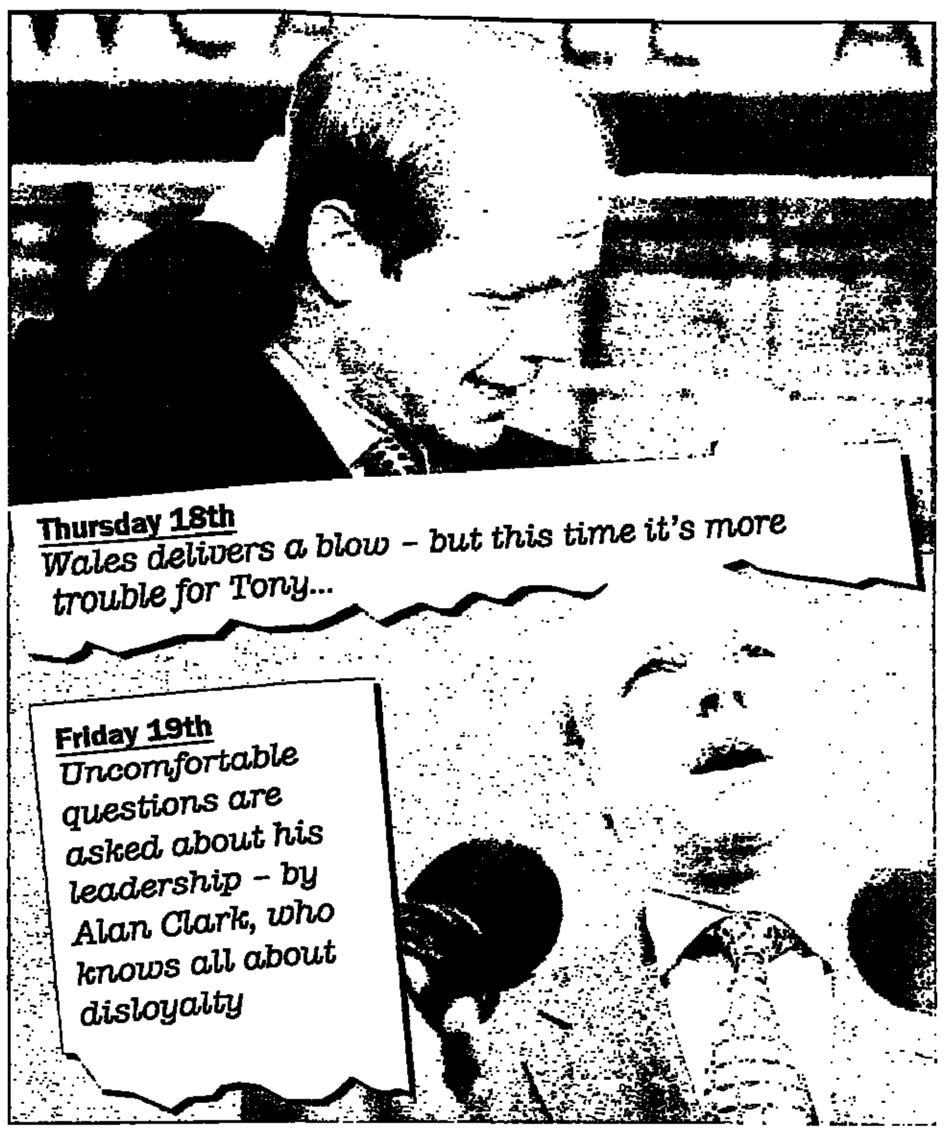
In a letter to *The Times* published this morning, the acid diarist and Kensington MP Alan Clark directs all his waspish hauteur towards the ballot on Mr Hague's leadership and his reforms. The archly contrived protests of support *in principle*, the dismissive reference to management consultants and the appeal to tradition combine to make it a Molotov cocktail flung towards the leader's office.

The opposition of grave seniors to modernisation and the tensions between strategists could endanger the prospects for any Tory recovery. Twenty years after he held the Tory conference spellbound as a 16-year-old schoolboy with a passionate plea for freedom, Mr Hague will mount the rostrum again for his first conference speech as leader. He will speak twice that week, making the case for his reforms and closing the conference.

Mr Hague's speaking skills, as platform orator and Commons performer, have propelled him to his current eminence. He will enjoy a perfect opportunity to remind the Tory party of his gifts. But if his voice is obscured by an off-stage cacophony from rival interpreters, and his reforms derided by those who should know better what disloyalty can do to a party, then he will struggle to be heard by those he must convert.

Letters, page 25

Wednesday 17th
William presides at a meeting of the Shadow Cabinet...



Thursday 18th
Wales delivers a blow – but this time it's more trouble for Tony...

Friday 19th
Uncomfortable questions are asked about his leadership – by Alan Clark, who knows all about disloyalty

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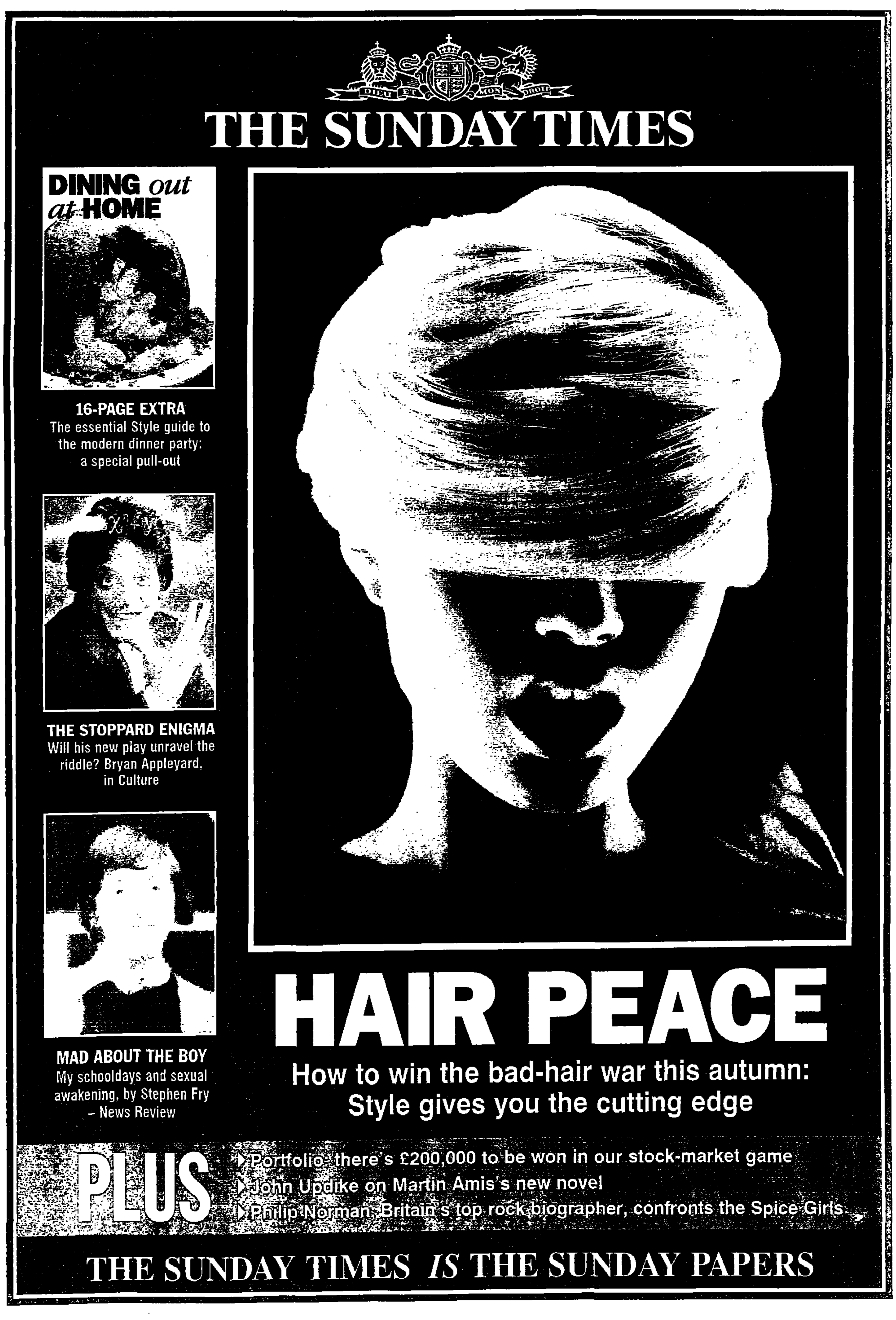

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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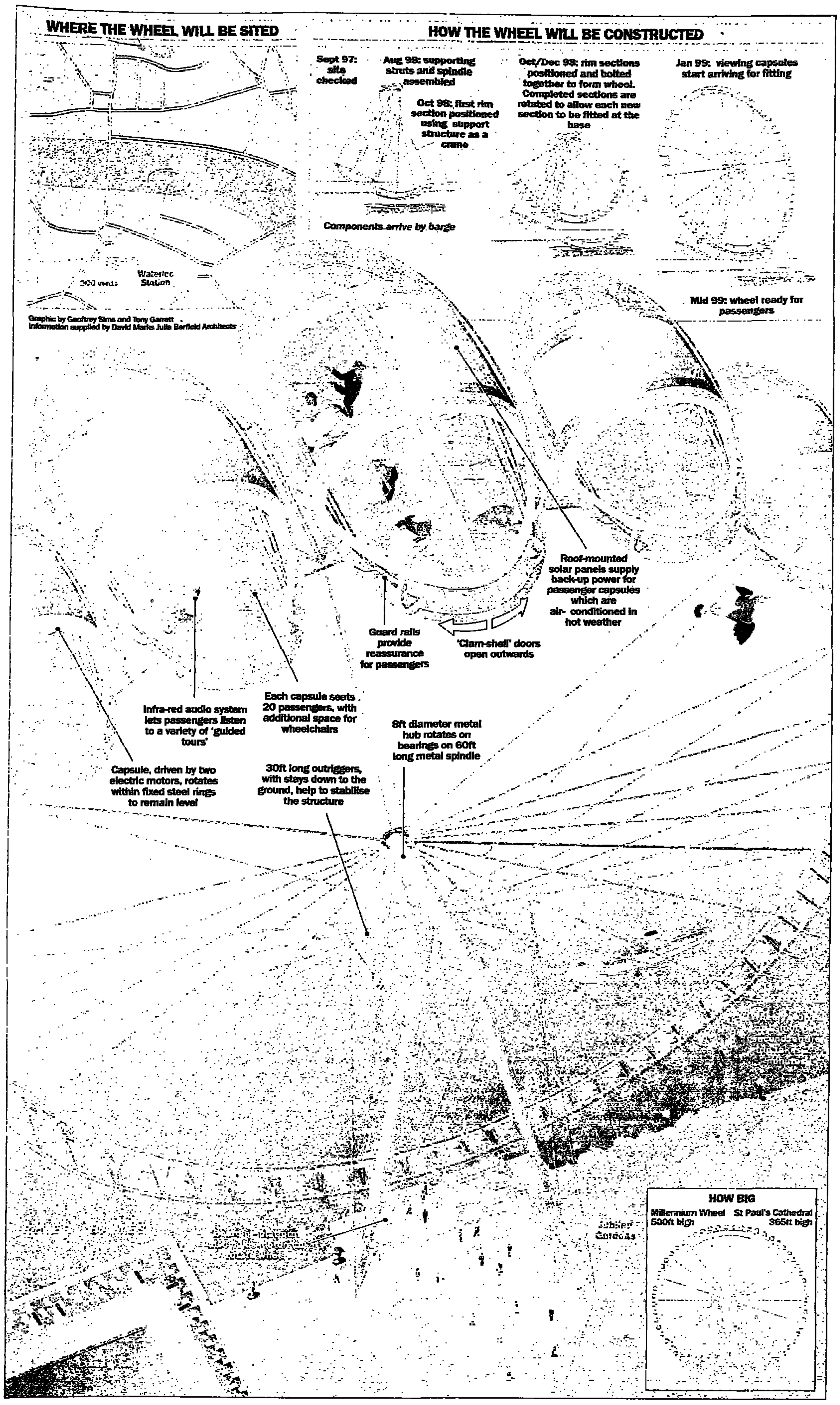
THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

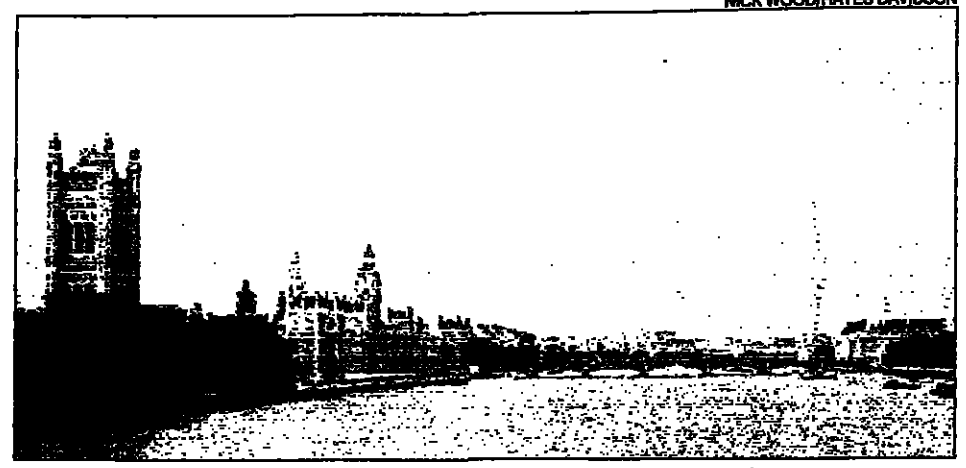
Work begins on the best seat in town

The Millennium Wheel will tower over London, offering a new perspective on the capital. **Dominic Kennedy** reports


WHERE THE WHEEL WILL BE SITED
Waterloo Station
500 yards
HOW THE WHEEL WILL BE CONSTRUCTED
Sept 97: site checked
Aug 98: supporting struts and spindle assembled
Oct 98: first rim section positioned using support structure as a crane
Components arrive by barge
Oct/Dec 98: rim sections positioned and bolted together to form wheel. Completed sections are rotated to allow each new section to be fitted at the base
Jan 99: viewing capsules start arriving for fitting
Mid 99: wheel ready for passengers
Roof-mounted solar panels supply back-up power for passenger capsules which are air- conditioned in hot weather
Guard rails provide reassurance for passengers
'Clam-shell' doors open outwards
Infra-red audio system lets passengers listen to a variety of 'guided tours'
Each capsule seats 20 passengers, with additional space for wheelchairs
8ft diameter metal hub rotates on bearings on 60ft long metal spindle
Capsule, driven by two electric motors, rotates within fixed steel rings to remain level
30ft long outriggers, with stays down to the ground, help to stabilise the structure
Jubilee Gardens
HOW BIG
Millennium Wheel 500ft high
St Paul's Cathedral 365ft high

Graphic by Geoffrey Sims and Tony Garrett
Information supplied by David Marks Julia Barfield Architects

NICK WOOD/HAYES DAVIDSON



How it will look: the wheel will be almost opposite Parliament

THE most coveted place in Britain at midnight on the turn of the millennium will be in the top seat of the biggest wheel in the world. The stupendous British Airways Millennium Wheel, which will give views of the capital rarely seen even by pigeons, is about to be built on the South Bank of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament.

The £12 million wheel, which can seat more than 1,000 people at once in 60 glass capsules — symbolising the minutes in an hour — is being constructed without any money from taxpayers or lottery players, unlike the Greenwich Dome, which is relying on £200 million from the National Lottery. It is due to open in summer 1999 and stand for five years.

The wheel may also become the ideal location for London's most romantic dates in the new millennium. Special events are being planned for Valentine's days, when couples may be able to hire an entire 20-seater capsule each. One cycle of the wheel takes 25 minutes.

Work is just starting at a site between the former County Hall, which is being converted into an hotel, and the Royal Festival Hall. The wheel, 500ft tall, will dwarf St Paul's at 365ft and Big Ben (320ft).

For eight hours a day, passengers will circle at a pace slower than walking speed. They will have headsets providing descriptions of the views, in many languages, beamed from an infra-red transmitter inside the capsule. They will also be able to choose specialist commentaries. Ideas include Gastronomic London by Sir Terence Conran, Theatrical London by Kenneth Branagh and Architectural London by Lord Rogers. Tickets will cost £6 for adults and £3 for children.

The wheel will take the title of the world's biggest Ferris wheel from the Japanese. The French claim to have a blueprint for a larger version, but nothing has yet materialised.

"As soon as they found out about it, they said 'We already have a plan to build a bigger wheel', which I think was a total lie," said Camilla Cavendish of the South Bank Employers' Group.

South Londoners are thrilled that the wheel will attract tourists. Research shows that 2 million people a year walk halfway across Westminster Bridge from the north side, take a picture of Big Ben, then return without setting foot on the South Bank.

The Millennium Wheel was the idea of the architects David Marks and Julia Barfield, a husband-and-wife team from London whose past creations have included less ambitious schemes, such as a water sports centre in Liverpool.

Most Ferris wheels are supported on both sides, with the wheel spinning in the middle. But the Millennium Wheel will be suspended directly over the River Thames, so it has to be propped up from one side only. Solar cells in the roof of each capsule will power the ventilation and back-up systems.

Ove Arup, the engineers, are designing a mechanism so each capsule lights up briefly when it reaches the top, satisfying Civil Aviation Authority requests that aircraft can see the landmark at night.

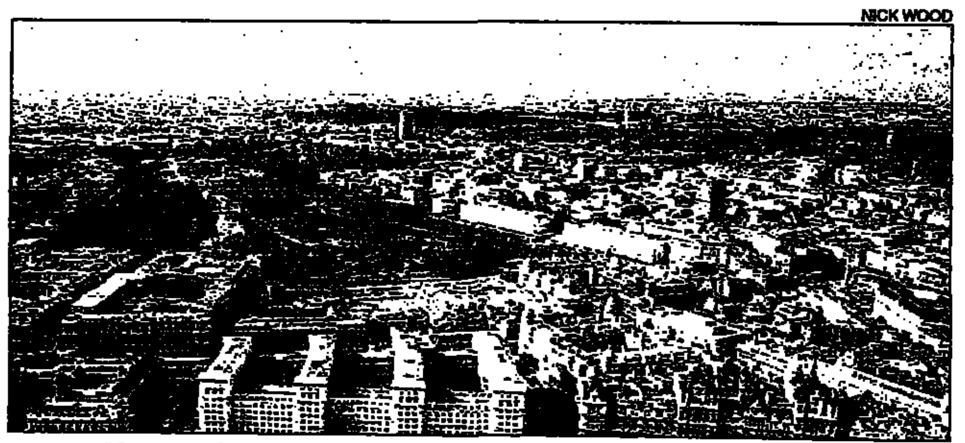
Passengers will board the wheel from a platform on the river. After each bubble-load of customers gets off, a team of cleaners will swiftly remove any litter before letting the next crowd embark.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and a former seaman, is being lobbied to allow a pier to be built next to the wheel, allowing visitors to transfer by riverboat along the Thames to the dome.

The Millennium Wheel has permission to stand for five years. By then, 10 to 15 million visitors are expected to have experienced a "flight" on the wheel, and it should have broken even financially. It could then be dismantled and taken to another city.

Few London pigeons have seen the views which passengers will enjoy, according to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. "Pigeons stay near the ground to find food," said a spokeswoman.

NICK WOOD



How London will look: the view north over the centre of the capital

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Old fencer takes his guard in defence of BBC's appetite for change

Sir Christopher is Bland by name, but competitive by nature, and he intends to win his fight to reorganise broadcasting

DES JENSON

Sir Christopher admits that the intensity of the latest furore surprised him: "Clearly, we have some persuading to do, and more explanation, before we go ahead"

Valerie Grove

"Bland reads riot act" said one headline yesterday. Bland insists he did no such thing, but if riot acts were needed there would be no better practitioner than Sir Christopher, far from bland by nature. The chairman of the BBC board of governors is quick on his feet (a former Olympic fencer), tough (schooled at Sedbergh, with its icy baths and motto "The hard nurse of men") and decisive: witness his speedy reaction to this week's furore.

Shortly before I arrived at Bland's office, John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, and Tony Hall, its chief executive of news, had been in there, drafting the statement that would deflect further fury from revolting news staff. An abstemious BBC lunch of bottled water and cold beef salad ("Oh dear, dead cow again," says Bland) was on the table. So he had been galvanised into action by the row?

"I don't need galvanising. I am galvanic every day by nature." I say I would have loved to have been a fly on the wall at the meeting. "You would have been quite disappointed by the absence of drama. It all took about ten minutes.

"But it would be foolish to pretend that the intensity of the reaction didn't surprise all of us. And we responded. Clearly, we have some persuading to do, and more explanation, before we go ahead. Everything in Stage VI was approved long ago, before I arrived. But the devil was in the detail."

The detail in the offending letter, and its timing, seems to have been news to everyone except the hapless Richard Clemmow, the head of news who, "ashen-faced", had faced the fierce inquisition of Jeremy Paxman and the blistering wrath of Anna Ford and co; it was left to Bland and Birt to put the changes on hold, while tempers cool.

Birt, 52, and Bland, 59, destined to steer the BBC together through revolutionary changes into the 21st century, share a common experience. Both were turned down by the BBC when they applied for graduate traineeships on leaving Oxford. Birt went off to Granada and Bland to Currys. It was at London Weekend Television that they became *confrères*: "We work effectively together, and that's what happened this morning."

His office is directly above Birt's on the fourth floor, in a corridor *perilously close to the mutinous* ranks of *Today*, *The World at One* etc. He has brought his own furniture: teak garden chairs, desk by David Linley and about 20 Eric Gill engravings, some quite erotic, from his collection.

At home he has a Mark Quinn (the artist whose frozen head sculpted from his own blood is featured in Charles Saatchi's *Sensations* at the Royal Academy). "We have a pair of his baked hands, moulded from dough, one slightly scorched in the oven." It turns out that Quinn and Bland's eldest step-daughter, Georgia, are an item.

Nobody *should mistake* chairman Bland for a suit. Beneath his corporate exterior there beats the heart of a far more interesting creature who once, while deputy chairman of the IBA, wore a droopy moustache. I wonder how many BBC staff know that the chairman gets in early every day to follow, laboriously, *Mavis Beacon's Teach Yourself Touch Typing*. He demonstrates the "Car Game", copying out a sentence while, on his screen, a car speeds away into the distance as he tries to keep up. He is very proud of having got up to ten words a minute. Sweet, really.

His wife, Jennie, was the first girl he kissed, at 17 on a beach in Co Down, but he could not marry her *for several decades, until her* marriage to Viscount Enfield, now the Earl of Strafford (with whom she had four children) was over. Now the Blands, with their 14-year-old son, Archie, live in a house named Blissamore.

The BBC chairmanship is not his only job. He still does two days a week at National Freight, where he employs more people than the BBC. "You can reorganise National Freight to your heart's content and nobody writes about it," he says. "Nor does anyone ask you for a job there." Middle-class mothers are always writing to him about their son George who is reading General Studies at Basingstoke University *and fancies a job at the BBC; but no* mother ever begs him to give George a traineeship as a trucker.

Far too independent and bolshie ever to have gone into politics, despite his Bow Group chairmanship, he still keeps in his wallet the pink credit transfer slip for his first million (£1,132,551.70) made by selling his printing company, Caustons, in 1985, having bought it for £20,000.

He lives to compete. At his chateau in Gascony, guests are *roused from their sunbeds to play* boules or tennis; Christmas guests at his manor in Hampshire are obliged, as Anna Ford reported, to devise a pantomine with only ten minutes' rehearsal. "But my competitive instinct at its worst was winning the go-karting championship at Jane Birt's 50th birthday party, seeing off Peregrine Worsthorne and David Frost."

He is a gourmet (owns Leith's cookery school and took a course there) and a poetry lover: can remember every poem he learnt before the age of 18 ("you couldn't blast that loose"), but at 50 decided to oil his memory by learning *Kubla Khan*, Arnold's *Dover Beach* and Browning's *My Last Duchess, which he likes to recite* after supper.

And he can still wield a sabre. At a centenary reunion of Oxford and Cambridge fencers "we all boasted about how old and unfit we were until one fencing veteran told us he'd already had a triple heart bypass". Oxford, captained by Rocco Forte, mashed up the Light Blues: "Very satisfactory." The nearest he has got to a mid-life crisis was when he first left LWT and grew a horrible beard. "I rather liked it but I could see it was regarded as a statement, almost like taking yourself out of the job market. It had to go."

Staff are anxious and fretful but his responses remain smooth and often sardonic. ("I see John Tusa has written another assault on us today. He suffers from the radio equivalent of road rage. I'm so glad his job at the Barbican allows him so much time to comment on our affairs.")

When I tell him people say they will leave rather than apply for their own jobs, Sir Christopher ruminates a while on his dead cow. "In the heat of the moment people say all sorts of things. But when they look at things coolly they tend to reconsider." Supposing staff start defecting to ITN? At LWT he was able to sweeten changes with share options and golden handcuffs. "Irrelevant," he says.

To Shirley Williams's warning that individual news programmes would be homogenised, he says: "She's a sensible woman, but what she fears will not be allowed to happen." What about losing the dynamic of rivalry between *Today* and *The World at One*? "I don't buy this argument. At present, people in the news can get four phone calls within 20 minutes from four different BBC programmes each asking them to appear. Nobody turns down an opportunity to appear on *Today*: it's the agenda-setting programme; I wake up to it every day. But news strands don't *need to outdo one another, but* outdo the competition, from other radio and TV stations, and 24-hour news on CNN and Sky."

I sympathise with radio presenters who resist the move to Television Centre. Broadcasting House is geographically and emotionally the hub and heart of London. "Look, there is no point in pretending that Shepherd's Bush is a nicer place to work than Portland Place," Bland says. "It isn't. But this is an ancient building into which new technology will not fit."

He has no doubts about the desirability of a 24-hour news service. "We already have one, BBC World, the world's best news-gathering organisation, available *everywhere but the United Kingdom*. The audience for it will build over time." The recent foretaste, with the death of Diana, Princess of Wales had shown "the BBC at its best", though it would be inappropriate to *hype* the BBC's audience figures: "I thought ITV did very well, too." Digital broadcasting will make non-digital sets as obsolete as black-and-whites. "No organisation can stand still. You can't stick your head in the sand and your bottom in the air."

He says he never realised what an intense spotlight the BBC operated under, nor how political the job would be — dealing with Cabinet ministers, with listeners' *watchdogs and now with mutinous* high-profile presenters. But *en garde* everyone: this is just the kind of thing the swordsman likes. "Do say," he shouts as I leave, "that it's a *wonderful* job."

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A brief history of Mr Blair's best buzzword

Modernisation is no substitute for serious policy, says **Sheila Lawlor**

Modernisation, which is emerging as the leitmotif of the new Labour Government, has a long history. Yet each age has had its penchant for modernisation. Each generation throws up politicians for whom being modern determines both the style of politics and its substance. The modernising message of this century has been conveyed in populist terms, with increasingly meticulous attention to publicity. But can modernisation be a policy? Or is it a distraction from and a substitute for serious reform?

Modernisation is, of course, a slogan that appeals particularly to politicians who reach high office early. In the 1930s, Anthony Eden — who symbolised the new internationalist world after 1918 where co-operation and trust replaced rivalry and realpolitik — had a following because "he has youth and is modern".

Yet it was neither modernity nor youth that earned Winston Churchill his wartime leadership as he doggedly calculated how best to defend Britain and win the war. He resisted Eden's fashionably modern League of Nations causes and the crowds who cheered *him* in Ankara and Athens. He avoided Stafford Cripps's ideologically modernising demands on behalf of Stalin for a Second Front. Churchill concentrated on the piecemeal preservation of Britain and the Empire. He opposed the trend to social blueprints and wartime promises to the people. Although he did not welcome the initiatives of William Beveridge or Rab Butler on welfare and education, he did not veto their work. That was to be for the postwar debate, which did not, in fact, materialise; as politicians increasingly affected agreement on the broad lines of social policy, modernisation became the post-Churchillian orthodoxy.

In practice, Eden found the rhetoric of modernisation irrelevant to the international Suez crisis which overwhelmed his premiership. Butler, another early moderniser, never made it to the top, because Macmillan outmodernised him. But Macmillan, despite building 300,000 houses a year, found that his vision of a modernised Britain that had never had it so good dissolved into the seamy world of Profumo.

The arch-moderniser was Harold Wilson, who fitted the part better than the prewar generation of Tories such as Macmillan, Butler or Home. Where he led, Tony Blair has followed. The "white-hot" modernisation of 1964, when science and skills were to fuse under socialism, became in 1997, the fusion of skills and technology (less elitist and more buzz) under new Labour's stakeholder society. The aim in both cases was a diversion from Labour's internal battles, which then as now were part of the deeper problem confronting the truly modern government: the role, extent and cost of the State in economic and social terms and the response to the collectivist *Zeitgeist* of the 20th century. Wilson did not survive his indifference to this problem, and his politics of modernisation proved a chimera.

Since the 1960s, technocratic modernisation has had its managers in this country. Wilson was followed by Edward Heath and Jim Callaghan, but Margaret Thatcher finally returned to the unfinished business of setting limits to the State in economic and industrial policy. Mr Blair has professed his eagerness to build on the achievements of the 1980s, but in fact the style and content of new Labour represent a return to the politics of modernisation of her predecessors. Mr Blair is also embarking on a further stage of modernising: that of the constitution. Parliament and the monarchy were obvious targets, though the result of the Welsh referendum shows that public opinion is still sceptical of the grand project. But constitutional modernisation, like the technocratic version, hardly touches on the question posed and anticipated by Margaret Thatcher: whether government control of social policy is a better, more efficient, or fairer basis for meeting popular aspirations than the other choices. That remains the debate of the old century and the new.

One minister who appears to have grasped this point is Frank Field, and his welfare reform proposals may well return Labour to seriousness of policy. For this, we must wait. But in education, Labour's other main field of social reform, Mr Blair's vow to raise standards will be overshadowed by the modernisation that was steamrollered through the state system 30 years ago. That phase bequeathed the rationalisation of schooling on centrally planned lines — where comprehensive reorganisation was accompanied by a new "modern" educational philosophy. Knowledge gave way to skills and self-expression, with consequences for concentration, self-discipline and character. Public examinations and the basis for training teachers changed, too. The new social sciences took pride of place in the training colleges and subject specialism was dismissed as obsolete.

That technocratic modernisation of education has left a generation of casualties, especially among the less advantaged. Yet the thinking of the last government which entrenched that failed system has been taken up by the present one as class sizes and the content of lessons have become part of the bureaucratic fief. More powers and funding for town halls will mean less autonomy and money for schools. And Mr Blair will have personal experience of a Tory brand of modernisation: those church schools that Rab Butler's Education Act dragooned into the state system, and were among the first to seek autonomy as grant-maintained schools (including his children's school) must once again become the fiefs of the local education authority.

The abolition of nursery vouchers is another example of how new Labour's old dogma of modernisation is returning the country to the heavy-handed statism of the postwar decades. The vindictive withdrawal of nursery vouchers from the under-fives merely restricts the choice of the less well-off parents. They will now be herded into reception classes at the local authority school, and at a far greater cost, which may yet cause Gordon Brown to regret the rapidity with which the Left was bought off by Labour's manifesto commitment.

Modernisation in politics brings with it its own problems, often conveniently bequeathed to later generations. Technocratic modernisation in the 1960s and 1970s has left a legacy: insecurity, poverty, a cycle of failure for many children and a bloated welfare sector. New Labour's determination to increase spending on target groups may well mean less for those whom the State taxes and on whose behalf it spends. They will cease to be freeholders, independent of the State, and become stakeholders, overregulated clients of the State. That will be the real meaning of Mr Blair's modernised modernisation of Britain.

Dr Lawlor is director of the think-tank Politeia and author of Churchill and the Politics of War.

The Booker is good for bookies, but it has nothing to do with literature, says **Simon Barnes**

Why writers aren't racehorses

It is generally agreed that literature matters more than sport: that Marcel Proust is more important than Eric Cantona, Hamlet than Michael Atherton, Anna Karenina than Anna Kournikova. Sport is an altogether inferior activity. But when it comes to the moment for literature to steal the spotlight, get on to the front pages, become a talking point, it does so by pretending it is a sport.

This is called the Booker Prize. The short list was announced this week, and the book that really counts is the one created by the bookmaker. Bernard MacLaverty with *Grace Notes*, is 2-1 favourite. Come on my son! It all takes me back to the sixth form, when Ralph and I, tipsy on our second half-pints, would argue thunderously as to whether or not James Joyce knocked D.H. Lawrence into a cocked hat. We did not discuss their relative virtues: we wanted to know who was the winner.

Literature is swarming with prizes. I have a novel of my own entered for one of these; best not go into details. And it is possible that the wise, all-seeing prize committee will come to the obvious and inevitable decision — how can this Barnes be so *good*? — but I suspect that in the end, I will have to go around despising both the judges (who are these people anyway?)and the whole concept of awards. So *meaningless*, my dear, and so *demeaning*.

The snag is that you can't really say that prizes and awards are meaningless unless you have got one. Woody Allen was presented with this opportunity, surely the ultimate luxury. He didn't turn up to Oscars night when he won a hatfull for *Annie Hall*: he preferred to play his clarinet in New York.

The Woody role in the current Booker is being played by the uninterviewable Madeleine St John (*The Essence of the Thing*, 9-2, get stuck in there, girl!). "She writes novels and doesn't see why she has to perform," said Joanna Prior, publicist for her publishers. To be consistent, St John will have to refuse the award, or give it to the poor; but neither human beings, nor for that matter, novels, need to be consistent to be good.

It is a very deep part of human nature not only to want to be the best, but to want to know who is the best. Perhaps it comes from the atavistic need for a dominance hierarchy, a need spawned when proto-humans lived in troops on the African plains. It is an instinct that made people who were good at messing about in water invent the sport of synchronised swimming. Ballroom dancing is about to become an Olympic sport. Torville and Dean flung themselves into the crater of an imaginary volcano in a skated dance of doomed love, to win a gold medal.

There is hardly a sphere of human activity that does not have some kind of scheme for working out who is the best. It happens in my own profession. Journalistic awards, I mean, my dear, such an absurd concept ... But I (like Woody) am allowed to say that, because on one or two occasions, the wise, all-seeing judges have given one to me. (On far more occasions, the blind fools have given the meaningless bauble to whichever time-server was due for his turn that year.)

I can remember Steve Davis, the snooker player, a delightful as well as a fascinating man, speaking to me in the press room at the world championships. "It must be great for you guys to have a competition like that," he said. "Puts the whole thing in focus."

But it doesn't, really. Because there is no process of competition. Competition has been spatchcocked into an unrelated activity. Any person with a trace of vanity — and most sportswriters have rather a lot — finds it lovely to win. But we are writers. We are telling a story. "I'm going to write this Wimbledon v Crystal Palace match report so well, they'll have to give me the prize." The thought is absurd.

Competition is incidental. I don't imagine MacLaverty and St John were sitting at the word-processor, playing on despite the groin strain, telling themselves: "I'm going to get the Booker this year! Second place is just the first loser, baby! Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing!"

In sport, competition *is* everything. It is entertainment that is incidental. Occasionally, footballers say: "I am an entertainer." Any sane manager should sack such a player on the spot. Sport is a zero-sum game. It produces a winner, a loser. And sport's atavistic simplicity goes very deep: so deep, we try to turn many other things into sport, into zero-sum games.

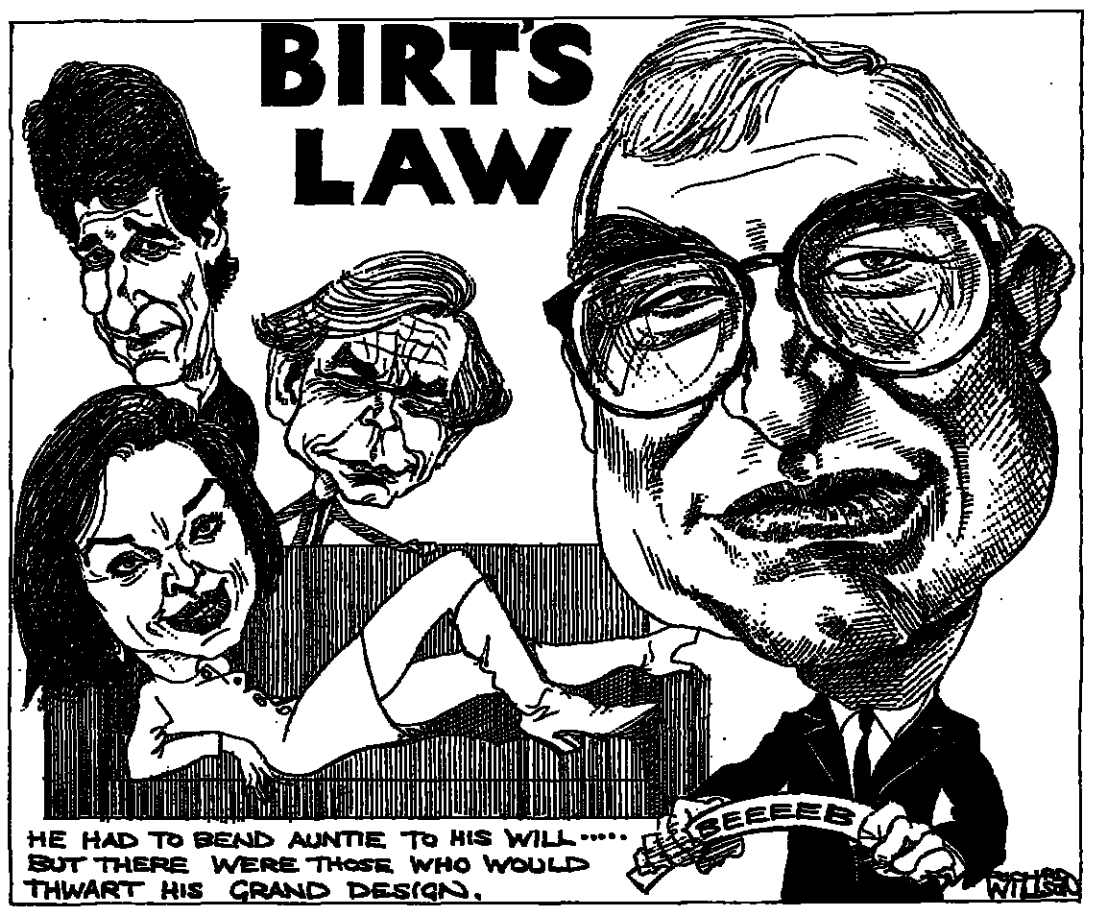
But life is not a zero-sum game. And nor, for that matter, is literature. The notions of prizes, awards, dominance hierarchies, pecking orders have nothing to do with art: and yet nobody involved with art can resist them. The Turner Prize, the Booker, Young Musician of the Year, Oscars, Grammys, Baftas, and on, and on. Such things are as meaningless as they are powerful; rather like sport itself.

In my experience, there is only one form of creative fiction that is truly competitive — the compiling of one's expenses. I look on this as a straight fight between myself and the managing editor. I see it as my imagination against his: damn'd be him that first cries "Hold, enough!"

Inside Corporate Centre

The BBC reshuffle gripped the world — but does nobody ever get fired?

Simon Jenkins


BIRT'S LAW
HE HAD TO BEND AUNTIE TO HIS WILL.....
BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO WOULD THWART HIS GRAND DESIGN.
BEEEEB
WILLSON

The British Broadcasting Corporation should be a protected monument. I refer not to its programmes, which will rise and fall in the media market. I mean the corporation. This BBC has become the *Neighbours* of the chattering classes, a turmoil of human emotion in a bungalow stuffed with goodies. The corporation is always on the brink of bliss, when the doorbell chimes and Disaster comes weeping over the doorstep. The fridge may be full but the heart is empty.

This week saw an episode that had us snapping our wine glasses in suspense. The plot was of Stanislavskian intensity — and obscurity. The Director-General, John Birt, was harmlessly adding another wafer to the *mille feuille* of his bureaucracy. Five new executives with attendant retinues were to "slim down" the BBC's sprawling something, in preparation for a digital something else. There would be more managers, but they would be balanced by a 30 per cent cut in budgets and staff. To a centralist this is standard process. The plebs might revolt and John Tusa write to *The Guardian*. But trouble could be bought off with promotion, pay and titles. It was boring internal stuff, like a new manager at the local bank.

Then everything exploded. This was the BBC. A management reshuffle might seem boring to headquarters but not to staff who dine in the gilded halls of Fame, and meet newspaper reporters. The story gripped the world. On Thursday, I heard one of the many executives involved, Tony Hall, trying to explain himself, having apparently banned James Naughtie from interviewing him. After the overplaying of the Diana story, the BBC seemed again to have lost its senses. The scene was worthy of a Taleban putsch or a student prank. Mr Hall mumbled incomprehensibly, as if with a gun at his neck. The rebels spoke darkly of the "independent integrity of the *Today* programme", allegedly threatened by satanic forces within the BBC.

Those of us who hover professionally on the fringe of these volcanos must discount much that we hear in the corridors. One thing is clear. There are now two BBCs, and they are at daggers drawn. The first is composed of those who broadcast. They are fiercely parochial, introverted, competitive with each other and commercial broadcasting. Some are good, some bad, some indifferent. They spend money as if the taxpayer's pocket was their own. But I know what they do. They broadcast.

The second BBC has no link with the first except at parties. It has the Leninist title of Corporate Centre and comprises an overhead vaster than that of any media group I know. It is more bureaucratic than any British institution outside the Ministry of Defence. (Students may compare and contrast the forest of BBC office blocks sprouting at White City with the MoD's similar forest outside Bath.) Corporate Centre is impervious to cuts or criticism and eats, often literally, £55 million a year. Many good friends work there and will not thank me for saying so, but I have not the foggiest idea what they do all day. They "go to meetings" and fight each other. Few would last five minutes in the private sector, yet all claim private-sector salaries.

Those who have escaped this miasma tell tales of interminable conferences, indecisive meetings, labyrinthine reporting lines and private staffs as big as those of Cabinet Ministers. Like a prize patient in a teaching hospital, Corporate Centre seems to suffer every malady known to business science. On display is not just Parkinson's first law, but all his other ones: the law of the rising pyramid, the coefficient of inefficiency, the curse of the administration block, the law of delay, the law of proliferating deputies. The place is afflicted with the defensiveness of overbig organisations. This surfaces in the ubiquitous "BBC speech", a tedious catalogue of achievements supplied to executives for use at seminars and culminating in the Ian McIntyre joke about how not to miss a BBC meeting. Andrew Davis found himself stumbling through fragments of the speech at the recent Last Night Of The Proms.

I never encountered institutional venom like that of the broadcasting BBC towards the Corporate Centre. Last week's eruption by Jeremy Paxman, James Naughtie, John Humphrys, Anna Ford and others was not the normal distaste of any profession for its bosses. Mr Birt, personally an amiable man, is treated by his underlings with what I can only call hatred. I would have feared for his safety had he shown his face in the surviving studios at Broadcasting House last week. I can see why he is banishing them to the wastes of White City.

What Mr Birt is struggling to do with BBC news has to be right in theory. I love broadcast news and am fed up with getting it only when the BBC deigns to make its "resources" available between sport and features. I get a better service from Sky News and ITN's News Direct. They give me information when I want it, not when it suits a programming committee. Two decades after 24-hour news has come to America and commercial radio to Britain, the world's most extensive and expensive news gatherer, the BBC, still does not offer a round-the-clock serious news service on screen and radio. It does not even offer a light classical music channel. Mr Birt has been wanting to change this for years, ten in fact. Why are we waiting?

If the price of a modern news service is bruised egos, too bad. I could hardly believe it, when the news staff treated their reshuffle as a headline story. Would they give the same publicity to such changes in the health service or local government? What to outsiders are the hard knocks of corporate bureaucracy are a threat to freedom when they happen to a Paxman, a Naughtie or a Ford. Having thus usurped the airwaves for their personal moan, they complained that the BBC was "infringing the independent integrity" — of another bit of the BBC. Really.

Yet no sooner had I blinked than stout party collapsed. No sooner had the Corporate Centre made a real decision (albeit the umpteenth) to rationalise its newsgathering than John Tusa cleared his throat and the bureaucrats retreated. We saw that classic symptom of bureaucratic malfunction: senior executives were overruled by higher executives, themselves under pressure from stratospheric executives. All professed that they "had not known what was going on". They had clearly been at the wrong meeting. I was left with a nasty thought. Does nobody at the BBC ever get fired?

You do not fire great British institutions — and perhaps it is as well. Digital broadcasting may shatter the BBC's complacency, slash its market share and send chunks of its activity spinning off into oblivion. The exile of all real broadcasting to White City, leaving only Corporate Centre in Broadcasting House, is presumably a prelude to eventual privatisation. One day BBC television and radio channels will come under self-governing trusts, taking subscriptions or advertising. They will have to fend for themselves, financially.

What then for "the corporation", and its £55 million overhead? Let us be soft-hearted. I would be sorry to see it go. It is a bad manager but a good regulator. The BBC is also the constitutional monarch of British broadcasting. It is Royal Family and Court to the great and good. They rely on its hospitality, its tickets, its good company and its dignity. Public life is enhanced by its presence, and vastly entertained by its rows. We need such proxies.

Yet £50 million of public money will mean a tough deal. A pound a head from every Briton says that the corporation must not change its spots. Broadcasting House must stay regal, a memorial to old-fashioned management, to interminable meetings, arrogant consultants, fat-cat salaries, perks and rows. The BBC has become part of the pageantry of corporate Britain. It offers a mirror of its failings, a real-time case-history of institutional conflict. It makes every other organisation feel better every day. For that pleasure we should pay.

THE TIMES DIARY

Hair today . . .

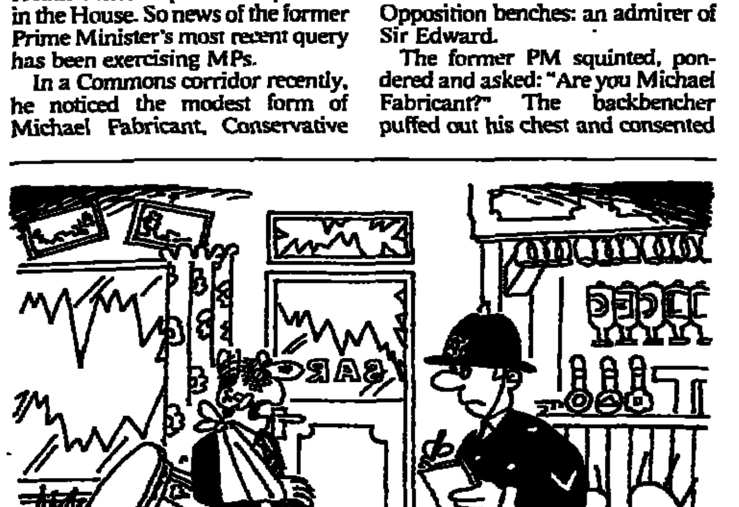
IT IS some years since Sir Edward Heath asked a pertinent question in the House. So news of the former Prime Minister's most recent query has been exercising MPs.

In a Commons corridor recently, he noticed the modest form of Michael Fabricant, Conservative MP for Lichfield. Now Mr Fabricant is that rare creature on the Opposition benches: an admirer of Sir Edward.

The former PM squinted, pondered and asked: "Are you Michael Fabricant?" The backbencher puffed out his chest and consented with deference and alacrity.

"Do you wear a wig?" Heath demanded. Cue: shake of those famous shoulders, accompanied by the customary Heath laugh. And well might Heath wonder. Indeed, many of his colleagues have been pondering the same question, but they had just been too polite to ask.

Sadly, Mr Fabricant's response is not recorded. But of this we can be sure: the MP sports a luxurious blond mane; yet photographs of Fabricant taken some years earlier show him, in the parlance of today, follically challenged. Who says Sir Edward should retire?



"There was an Englishman, a Welshman and a Scotsman — and they started talking about devolution"

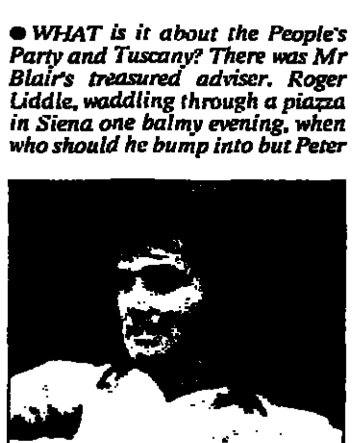
Hezza's ghost

TARZAN will not be swinging to Wee William Hague's rescue. Michael Heseltine, the star turn at Tory conferences for more than two decades, has decided to stay away from this year's gloomy post mortem in Blackpool.

The former Deputy Prime Minister has told colleagues that he does not want to be "the ghost at the feast". Hague is disappointed, and some senior Conservatives are quietly blaming Anne — Mrs Hezza — for encouraging him to spend more time in his arboretum.

She has worried about his health since he had a heart attack in Venice in 1993. Even then, he recovered to perform podium exercises at the following gathering, and last year won the contest for the loudest applause (94 decibels) and the longest (four minutes, 20 seconds).

● *WHAT is it about the People's Party and Tuscany? There was Mr Blair's treasured adviser, Roger Liddle, waddling through a piazza in Siena one balmy evening, when who should he bump into but Peter Hyman, another Blair confidant — just an olive's throw from their master's occasional country castle.*



George Best: wine merchant

Vintage Best

IT IS like presenting the Pink Panther with an open safe. George Best is to buy a wine merchants.

The former Manchester United footballer, who always combined business with pleasure, has bought shares in Alimentari, a West London off-licence. Its shelves heave with more than 100 varieties of wine — but for how long?

● *NOT only do Tories struggle to accept defeat, but Labour does not seem to realise it has won. With 23,000 applying to come to its conference, party HQ is so confused that it has sent passes to members of "the Shadow Cabinet".*

Busted

ROBIN COOK is growing very exercised about a large bust. As soon as he became Foreign Secretary, he installed a marble likeness of his great Labour hero, Ernest Bevin, in his Whitehall study.

This, he felt, would smack less of colonialism than Malcolm Rifkind's artistic legacy — an imposing portrait of Palmerston and an equally imperial, gilt-edged oil of a fine Indian princeling.

But upon entering his office this week, Mr Cook found that the bust had gone. "Who's taken Ernie?", he demanded. Possible culprits are being quizzed, with little progress. And Mr Cook actually thought he could change the Foreign Office . . .

Jungle fever

THE grim cries of dying men are haunting the appealing actress, Jane Seymour. She was struck down with jungle fever while filming *The Swiss Family Robinson* in Puerto Rico last month.

Jane Seymour: hallucinations

"I got hallucinations of World War One soldiers fighting in the trenches," she recalls. "I couldn't move from the foetal position. It felt as if my bones were crushed and my head was exploding."

Happily, pater was on hand to ease her tortured head: "These black and white images formed the face of my father which then turned into colour and he was right there in front of me," she says. Sounds as if she might be safer going back to appearing in James Bond films.

P·H·S

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LESSON FROM LLANELLI

Wales has set a challenge for both party leaders

Wales was offered an imperfect assembly and it has given an imperfect answer which will satisfy neither constitutional reformers nor Conservatives. The Government could not have held the referendum at a more propitious time. After 18 years of Tory rule marked by gubernatorial arrogance, after the election of a Prime Minister whose popularity is still at record levels, and after Scotland had voted so decisively for devolution, only just over a quarter of the Welsh said "yes" to Tony Blair's assembly. That was, however, a majority on the night and Mr Blair has his mandate — just.

The coming passage of constitutional legislation through the Commons would always have been a test for both Labour and Tory leaders. The nature of the Welsh result, a slim majority for significant change, makes it all the more testing. Mr Hague will feel emboldened to oppose but he must not obstruct; he should seek now to make an assembly as effective as possible, in the interests of maintaining the Union which his party exists to defend.

Mr Blair has an even more ticklish task. He promised yesterday to take note of the nature of his mandate and work harder to bring all of Wales with him as he proceeds with reform. The nature of the mandate shows, however, just how difficult it is to satisfy all of Wales. The result starkly laid bare the divisions that exist within the Principality. Even the Cymric north and the Anglophone south were divided against themselves. Wrexham said no to devolution because it did not want to be run from distant Cardiff and then Cardiff said no too.

Ministers were already aware of the need to respect Wales's diversity and sought to reflect that in the framing of their White Paper and the conduct of their campaign. The proposal to elect the assembly by proportional representation was designed to prevent any one party, or region, dominating the new body. Labour's commitment to selecting candidates of the highest quality for the new body was intended to allay concerns that the cronyism of Valleys local politics would be replicated in the assembly. These commitments were not, on their own, enough to secure support for an assembly outside Labour's heartlands and nationalist strongholds. Labour must consult outside its own ranks and listen humbly to other political traditions if it is to create an assembly which all Wales can learn to love.

Humility, rather than hubris, should also inform Labour's approach to other constitutional questions. The nature of the Welsh result should cause English campaigners for regional assemblies to think again. Whatever its internal divisions, Wales has a political and cultural identity altogether more pronounced and separate than any recognisable English region. If support is so low for a Welsh assembly, at this stage in the Government's honeymoon, is it politically wise to prepare the ground for the East Midlands to embrace autonomy in future?

English federalism should not be the only constitutional casualty of the result. It should provide a better brake on European federalism. Labour is committed to testing public opinion, either in a referendum or general election, before entering a single currency. The Welsh result shows that a general election victory, however sweeping, cannot be interpreted as a mandate for major constitutional change. Labour won 30 out of 36 seats in Wales just four months ago, and the other 6 seats went to parties even keener on devolution: yet when the people were consulted on the specific question the result was altogether less decisive. That is the final lesson from Llanelli for ministers. If they want to ensure public assent for a change as momentous as entry to EMU, then a referendum is the only honest way of divining the voters' views.

BEIJING'S BIG RISK

China now enters the most delicate stage of economic reform

China's 15th Communist Party Congress ended yesterday with a stiff march by seven unsmiling men, clapping in unison, to premarked positions on the stage of power. The ritual presentation of the new all-powerful standing committee of China's Politburo is unchanged since Mao Zedong. Now, as in his heyday, the bargaining that went into their selection and ranking can only be guessed at. The opacity of China's political processes contrasts starkly with the dizzying speed of its economic transformation, the recovery of some cultural freedoms and the spread of individual opportunity. Wooden words obscure, as they are intended to, the tense internal debate about how best the Communist Party can tame the hydra of social change and retain control.

President Zhiang Zemin, China's "core leader" who comes out of this five-yearly congress with his position strengthened but not unchallenged, has hedged his bets. With the ousting of Qiao Shi, formerly third in the hierarchy and now shunted totally off-stage, he has declared for political conservatism against the party's narrowly more liberal wing. Every party congress creates expectations; Mr Zhiang has put China on notice that neither political reform nor a softening of the official verdict on Tiananmen should be counted among them. Conversely, the promotion of Zhu Rongji, China's reformist economic supremo, puts him firmly in line to succeed Li Peng, the unpopular Prime Minister, who must step down next year.

On Mr Zhu's shoulders will therefore fall the risky but indispensable next step on China's march to the world marketplace — the dismantling of Mao's most intractable creation, the 305,000 "iron ricebowls" on which around 100 million Chinese workers depend from cradle to school to grave. These inefficient loss-makers cost China a fortune in government subsidy and bad debt to its biggest state banks worth a fifth of their total lending, and have drained yet more cash from the economy by accumulating £80 billion worth of debts to each other.

The costs are rising monthly and China's economic miracle will falter, with unpredictable consequences, if money goes on vanishing down these black holes. But there is no painless way out. Ideologically, Mr Zhiang has steered a tricky course, declaring that the tranfer of companies to "the public" leaves "public ownership" intact.

The Government remains torn between economic necessity and ideological conservatism. While it seems ready to let 100,000 or so smaller units sink or swim in the marketplace, it insists that 3,000 of the largest "strategic" enterprises will stay firmly in state hands. Rrecently, as provincial bosses began to take matters into their own hands, Mr Zhu formed a task force to "Stop the Drain of State Assets".

There are, however, two powerful arguments for starting small even though it is the largest enterprises that are the heaviest drain on China's coffers. In the absence of secure property rights, mass privatisation could well go hand in hand with massive corruption and asset-stripping. In addition, if the real behemoths were forced either to pay their way or close, another 40 million city dwellers could rapidly be added to the army of 175 million redundant rural workers already roaming China in search of jobs. Until these workers found other, more productive employment, the absence of safety nets could give rise to explosive outbursts of social unrest.

To secure China's future, its leaders need to shrink the state. But the process, as the World Bank's generally upbeat China survey observed this week, "will stretch China's social fabric to the limit". Given the high stakes and difficulty of the gamble ahead, it is not hard to understand why China's new team failed to crack a smile yesterday.

THE REIGN IN SPAIN

England should also remember its Philip

Spain is preparing elaborate events next year to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of King Philip II. In Madrid, it will be as much celebration as commemoration. The Spanish see Philip in a heroic light, as a dynamic king who, in the 16th century, personified the power, prestige and prosperity of the then vast Spanish empire — which would disappear within a few decades of his departure.

In Britain, the hostility between Philip's Spain and Elizabeth's England has been reflected in the tone of our history. Almost every aspect of Philip's personality and policies has been subject to periodic vilification. He has been characterised as a humourless bore, an insecure depressive and a religious zealot whose fanaticism fanned the Inquisition. His treatment of the Dutch and Turks abroad, and the Jews and Muslims at home, have all contributed to an overwhelmingly negative image.

But there is more to the connections between Philip and these islands than an unsuccessful Armada. For four years he took the title — although was never crowned — of King of England. In theory his marriage to Mary Tudor made him little more than her consort. In practice, his superstar status as the Habsburg heir, and the rarity of a woman ruler here, ensured him an influence far beyond the formal. Had Mary's phantom pregnancy of 1555 actually produced a son, the course of English history would have been dramatically altered.

Neither the House of Commons nor the country ever liked the marriage. Fears that Catholic Spain would eventually absorb England loomed large at every level. But Philip did little himself to legitimise those suspicions. His foreign policy may have forced England into needless war with France and the loss of Calais. But it was Mary, rather than her husband, who was determined to restore Roman Catholicism without compromising to English sensibilities. Most of the trials and executions that would eventually serve the Protestant cause occurred while Philip was abroad in the Netherlands. It was the Queen who so often sought to exclude Elizabeth from the succession. Philip, at that time, made no attempt to block her from the throne.

A more balanced account of the King does not demand wholesale reassessment. Much of the criticism of his reign in Spain retains credibility. Whether his relatively benign approach towards England would have lasted if Mary had lived longer is a matter of conjecture. Yet 400 years on, the title he once bore should entitle Philip's life and legacy to receive at least a little memory here.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Challenge to Tory reform plans

From Mr Alan Clark, MP for Kensington and Chelsea (Conservative)

Sir, The Conservative Party finds itself in a position of some difficulty. The membership have been issued with a ballot paper which, under the guise of asking one question, actually asks two: "Do you endorse William Hague as leader of the Conservative Party and support the principles of reform which he has outlined?"

These questions are entirely separate, but the same answer ("yes" or "no") is required to cover both.

I have little doubt that the majority are ready and willing to "endorse" William Hague as leader, and wish him well. And certainly it is true that the entire party structure needs overhaul; with real participation and responsibility delegated to the voluntary sector.

But the six "principles of reform", although impeccable in themselves, are capable of highly subjective interpretation. The ultimate aim (as reported in *The Times* on September 17) is "the merging of MPs, Central Office and the voluntary party into one single structure", subordinate to a governing body at whose head sits the leader.

William Hague is telling invited groups of activists, "People can either support the changes and me; or they don't get either". So the whole Conservative Party is being told, ahead of any detailed debate, to confer a blank cheque on a small coterie of management consultants to proceed as they think fit.

Such a request, even were it coming from a leader with a distinguished record of achievement in the past, does not sit comfortably in our history. Certainly, for example, had the restricted autonomy of associations or the power to impose deselection by edict from the centre been available in the Thirties it would, at different points in their career, have been deployed against three of our future Prime Ministers — Macmillan, Eden and Churchill.

I appreciate that any leader of a democratic party must envy Tony Blair and the total authority he has acquired over his own members. But we should note that this change was essential to the Labour Party in order to compel abandonment of its traditional beliefs and inspiration.

There are many who might agree that for the Conservatives it is necessary, not to move further away from our traditional standpoint, but to return to it.

Yours,
ALAN CLARK,
Saltwood, Kent CT21 4QU.
September 19.

Mandate for change?

From Mr R. O. Stonehouse

Sir, The referendum results in Wales, where only about a quarter of the electorate voted for a vital change to the constitution of Great Britain, and in Scotland, where only about 45 per cent voted affirmatively, raise serious questions about whether our unwritten constitution, based on a mixture of convention and statute law, is adequate or indeed democratic. The proportion of the electorate of Great Britain who would have voted for the proposed changes is unknown.

With such a poor and incomplete mandate for change the Government is given the go-ahead to introduce Bills which it will expect, with its large majority, to convert with little difficulty into Acts of Parliament that will change the constitution.

In Wales, 11 out of 22 areas voted to remain solely under the authority of the Westminster Parliament. Will the Bill on Welsh devolution take this into account and give them the option of opting out?

On the ground of stability, should the constitution be made more difficult to change than ordinary laws? For example, should changes have to have the support of two thirds of the electorate in a referendum and a two-thirds majority in the House, as opposed to straight majorities?

Secondly, has the time come to make voting compulsory?

Yours faithfully,
R. O. STONEHOUSE,
14 Claddach Kirkibost,
Lochmaddy,
North Uist, Western Isles.
September 19.

From Sir Wyn Roberts

Sir, Mr Siôn Cowell's letter (September 18) could give the incorrect impression that I supported the "yes" campaign in the Welsh referendum. In fact, I voted "no", on the grounds that the White Paper proposals for government by all-party subject committees are a prescription for indecision and chaos.

Imagine the UK being governed by such committees drawn from all parties in the House of Commons. Nothing would ever be done. A Cabinet-style arrangement is infinitely preferable. At least, it works.

Yours sincerely,
WYN ROBERTS,
Tan-y-Gwalia,
Rowen, Conwy, Gwynedd.
September 18.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

League table of military leaders comes under fire

From Mr Neil Datson

Sir, The hundred most influential military leaders (report, September 15; letters, September 17) is a silly-season game, the sillier with a first rule that makes the United States the ultimate of civilisation.

But if the game is to be played, and with this rule, Lieutenant-Colonel Lanning's list displays the army man's abiding ignorance of the role of naval warfare.

Sir Francis Drake (not listed) formulated the doctrine that England's borders are the coastlines of her enemies. It was the practical application of this doctrine, by Drake and his successors, that ensured that North America was predominantly colonised by English-speaking people, and that its political development was in an English tradition. No Francis Drake, no George Washington, no United States.

Colonel Lanning has clearly not read carefully enough *The Influence of Sea Power on History* by Alfred T. Mahan (no 38).

Yours faithfully,
NEIL DATSON,
Glebe Farm,
Spelsbury, Oxfordshire.
September 16.

From Mr Paddy Heazell

Sir, I fancy that Field Marshal Montgomery (no 63) would have scarcely been mollified at finding himself 16 places above his rival, Rommel. His response to being 49 places below Hitler, who spent much of the Second World War providing highly dubious military leadership, can only be guessed.

Monty, with uncharacteristic modesty, once suggested that the three greatest commanders of history were Napoleon (2), Alexander (3) and Moses (not placed).

Indeed, the scope for questioning Lanning's judgment is limitless. Saddam Hussein (81) rated above Charles XII (97) or Ney (96)? Indeed, a list of the most disastrous military leaders would be illuminating and well might include several names on Lanning's list.

Yours etc,
PADDY HEAZELL,
The Drift,
Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk.
September 16.

From Mr C. G. S. Clayton

Sir, More than a few of the leaders named by Colonel Lanning were notable failures.

Joan of Arc (43), for instance, who merely had the good fortune to catch the English temporarily off their guard, and was cruelly punished the moment they recovered; and Richard Lionheart (58), who managed to bring his people from one of the highest moments in their history to their greatest humiliation. One can only wonder how he came to omit the great General Custer.

One longs to list some of the omissions, notably those from the ancient world such a Miltiades, Epaminondas, Philip of Macedon, Sulla, Constantine and Belisarius, all of whom stood like colossi over the times in which they lived.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. S. CLAYTON,
Davian, Main Road,
Foxdale, Isle of Man.
September 15.

From Mr Bernard Cunningham

Sir, In listing General Robert E. Lee (60) so low, Colonel Lanning has erred in his declared purpose of including leaders "who had dominated their times ... and had exerted profound influence on the future".

If it had not been for General Lee's great leadership, the American Civil War would not have lasted four years, causing havoc to the Western world's trade. His skill as a strategist has been an inspiration and model for subsequent military leaders. His humanity lent an acceptable face to what many considered to be an unworthy cause.

Had he chosen the Union rather than his beloved Virginia, he most certainly would have replaced Ulysses Simpson Grant at number 33. Thus is the price of defeat assessed.

Yours truly,
BERNARD CUNNINGHAM,
Dr Fleming 30-7-C, 28036 Madrid.
September 16.

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, Your leading article, "Some talk of Alexander" (September 15), made me think of Field Marshal Alexander of Tunis (78). He should be higher on the list of great commanders which you were discussing.

Three Prime Ministers whom I served, Attlee, Churchill and Macmillan, had no hesitation of rating him the outstanding Allied general of the Second World War. Bradley (46), that excellent American general, was of the same opinion, declaring that all Alexander's American fellow generals regarded him with "adulation".

Yours sincerely,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place, Lindfield, Sussex.
September 16.

From Mr John Billington

Sir, One notable omission from Colonel Lanning's list is the formidable figure of Songtsen Gampo, Emperor of Tibet in the 7th century.

Songtsen Gampo united the tribes of central Asia from Mongolia to Nepal, and from Swat and Samarkand to Burma and Sian (then capital of China) where his descendants a century later briefly deposed the Chinese Emperor and caused such fear that Harun ar-Rashid of Baghdad was obliged to form an alliance with the Chinese to contain them.

Songtsen Gampo was a man of culture also and introduced writing and Buddhism to Tibet as well as laying down precepts for moral conduct which are still highly regarded by Tibetans today.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BILLINGTON (Chairman, Tibet Society of UK, 1993-97),
Brook House, Llandyssil,
Montgomery, Powys.

Prescription for healthy drinking

From Dr P. Abraham, FRCPsych

Sir, Dr Stuttaford, in his four-part series on alcohol (September 13-17), extols the health-giving merits of wine while counselling against overdosage. The "Prescription" of two to four glasses of claret daily, with meals (illustrating the first article), carries a real risk that a conscientious male "patient" might stick carefully to four, even of the rather parsimonious 125ml "pub" glasses. He would then consume 42 units in a week.

A more modest female choice of two of the generous 175ml glasses served in some wine bars would score 30 units in a week. Either, supplementing their "Prescription" with an occasional aperitif, would be taking chances with their health, and both, though feeling themselves in full control of a vehicle, would be in serious jeopardy on the road. Would not one or two glasses be wiser?

Yours faithfully,
P. ABRAHAM
(Executive Director),
The Medical Council on Alcoholism,
3 St Andrew's Place, NW1.
September 17.

From Mr Brian Robertson

Sir, From reading Dr Stuttaford's articles over a long period I have the impression that his medical practice in London has a fair proportion of rich and self-indulgent men who regularly imbibe expensive wines and lead affluent or even extravagant lives. Such people, as is known from medical studies, live longer than those less privileged or the abstemious, because they want for nothing and invariably have access to the best standards of healthcare.

Studies quoted by the good doctor do not mention that the populations used in his book could be separated by lifestyle as much as by alcohol intake. There are young wine drinkers on the streets of this city, for example, who look as if they will not last the week.

Yours faithfully,
B. ROBERTSON,
87 Audley Park Road, Bath.

From His Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, Dr Thomas Stuttaford (Weekend, September 13) describes how his elderly aunt, after drinking burgundy at dinner, whispered to him that she could no longer stand, and asked him to "make the necessary arrangements". What, I keep wondering, could these have been?

Did the lady spend the night at table wrapped in a blanket? Was a wheelchair brought in from the woodshed? Did a task force of servants carry her to bed? Or perhaps the doctor had a potion on hand to restore her balance? The answer might be of practical use to many of your readers, including myself.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
Lane Cottage,
Amberley, Stroud, Gloucestershire.

From the Reverend P. L. Hughes

Sir, Is it possible I could be harmed by over-exposure to the views, opinions and observations of the good Dr Tom Stuttaford?

Yours sincerely,
PETER HUGHES,
11 Worthington Fold,
Atherton, Manchester.
September 15.

Ask a silly question ...

From Mr Nicholas Stockdale

Sir, I recall the experience of an acquaintance of mine at a rather prestigious City law firm. To assess his suitability for the position of "trainee solicitor" he was asked that most incisive of interview questions (letters, September 1, 10, 16): "What are your weaknesses?" After a moment's reflection, he ventured: "Blondes."

The interview concluded some two minutes later.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS STOCKDALE,
362 Fulham Palace Road, SW6.
September 17.

From Mr Paul Gilbert

Sir, Some years ago my then employer interviewed a young man for a job. The applicant stood up in the middle of the interview to look out of the window. Apparently he was a "bus spotter" and had just seen a bus going along the high street which shouldn't have been on that particular route.

It was of great concern to him and he commented accordingly. He didn't get the job.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL GILBERT,
26 Highfield Road,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
mok@enterprise.net
September 10.

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, When I was being interviewed for the headmastership of Bryanston in 1959, Sir Piers Debenham, Bt, asked for my views on foxhunting. I said that in principle I was opposed to it but that I had no experience of the sport either as a hunter or as a fox. I got the job.

Yours faithfully,
ROBSON FISHER,
Craig Cottage, Lower Street,
Dittisham, nr Dartmouth, Devon.
September 15.

From Mrs J. Shrimpton

Sir, The honest response to a silly question should, I believe, be encouraged from an early age.

The primary school at which I am a governor decided to make their examination questions more "user friendly". A general knowledge paper was set for the nine-year-old class. The first question was: "Do you know who lives at No 10 Downing Street?"

Of the 30 children, 28 wrote down "Yes", the other two wrote "No".

I am, yours faithfully,
JUDITH A. SHRIMPTON,
The Old Farmhouse,
Lucton, Leominster, Herefordshire.
September 16.

From Mr John Condon

Sir, During a Civil Service interview in 1974 I was asked for my thoughts on (i) the reasons for the recent Turkish invasion of northern Cyprus, and (ii) the future of Britain's railways.

I was subsequently offered a post as clerical assistant at the local artificial-limb centre.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CONDON,
8 Leamington Avenue,
West Didsbury, Manchester.
September 10.

Crystal Palace plans

From Mr Eric Kings

Sir, Mr Philip Kolvin's letter (September 13) raises an interesting conflict of opinion about the proposal for a new Crystal Palace.

Some people object to the modern design, with its novel use of glass — that is to be expected with any radical design approach to a development on a well-known site; but there are also those who find Ian Ritchie's design both challenging and interesting.

Most objectors, however, have fastened on the current ideas for the use of the building when completed. The design lends itself to a number of possible uses, just as the old Crystal Palace did. Like it or not, to be financially viable the uses will have to coincide with what the public want; a cinema facility is presumably among them.

There are also many — like Mr Mathew Frith, whose letter you print with Mr Kolvin's — who want no building at all. Mr Frith's point about open space is addressed by the provision of unobtrusive roof car-parking.

The proposal before the Secretary of State for the Environment is the best I have seen in recent years. It is a pity that Sir Joseph Paxton, designer of the original Palace, is unavailable for comment.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC KINGS,
47 Ross Road, South Norwood, SE25.
September 14.

'Candle' tax

From Mr Roger Pursall

Sir, The Chancellor said that the Government was giving up its claim to VAT on the sales of *Candle in the Wind* because "that is in line with what the public would want" (report, September 11; letter, September 17).

While he is in this mood, should we be sending him a list of other ways in which we would like our taxes to be spent?

Yours faithfully,
ROGER PURSALL,
32 Sovereign Way,
Moseley, Birmingham.
roger.prl@virgin.net
September 17.

Floating currency

From Mr John F. Acheson

Sir, The new 50p piece reminds me vividly of my childhood days in Germany during the Weimar Republic in the 1920s when, if you did not hold on tightly to your 10 mark coin, it would gently float away.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
JOHN ACHESON,
Blackthorn Cottage,
Highfield Road, West Byfleet, Surrey.
September 18.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 19: By Command of The Queen Mr Philip Astley (Vice-Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Pavli Mihal Qesku at 38 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, today in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Albania to the Court of St James's.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 19: The Duke of York this evening attended the Maharaja Duleep Singh Centenary Trust Dinner at Wentworth Golf Club and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Sir Richard Thornton).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 19: The Princess Royal this morning visited Harewood House, Leeds, to see an exhibition marking the Centenary of the birth of Princess Mary. The Princess Royal, and was received by Mr David Fearnley (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of West Yorkshire).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Timeform House, Halifax, in its Fiftieth Anniversary Year.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 19: The Prince of Wales today visited Manchester and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, this morning visited the Salvation Army Centre and Outdoor Sports Complex, Medlock, to endorse "Challenge North West".

The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited Manchester Cathedral.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Macmillan Cancer Relief, afterwards visited Manchester Royal Infirmary and subsequently attended the launch of the City of Manchester and District Macmillan Nurse Appeal at Manchester City Centre.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, later attended a seminar entitled "Football — Helping Young People to Succeed" at Manchester United Football Club.

His Royal Highness, Vice Patron, afterwards opened the British Council's new offices in Manchester City Centre.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, later visited Houldsworth Mill, Reddish, Stockport.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 19: The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, this morning received the Lord Prior of the Order (the Lord Vestey) and the Chancellor of the Order (Professor Anthony Mellows).

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 19: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a Concert by the Prussia Cove Group at Prussia Cove, Penzance, Cornwall.

Royal engagements this weekend

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, as Patron, BT Global Challenge, will attend a prizegiving ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, at 7.30.

TOMORROW:
The Prince of Wales will attend the Annual Battle of Britain Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication in Westminster Abbey at 11.00.

The Duke of York, as Patron, will start the 1997-98 Whitbread Round the World Race at the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes at 12.30.

Service luncheon

4th and 5th Battalions Dorset Regiment (1939-1945)
Officers of the 4th and 5th Battalions Dorset Regiment (1939-1945) attended their annual luncheon held yesterday at the TA Centre, Dorchester. Colonel Philip Roper presided.

Church services are on page 13 of the Weekend section today

Service dinners

The Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons)
General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, Colonel of the Highlanders (Seaforth, Gordons and Camerons), was in the chair at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh.

King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
Brigadier R.St.C. Preston presided at the annual dinner of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regimental Officers' Club held last night at the Royal York Hotel, York.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
Brigadier D.A.K. Biggart, Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, presided at the annual serving and retired officers' dinner held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Latest wills

Sir Havelock Hudson, Chairman of Lloyd's 1975, 76 and 77, of Stanford Dingley, Reading, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,021,896 net.

Lady Graffey-Smith, of Barking, Ipswich, left estate valued at £122,899 net.
She left £5,000 to the RNIB.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Lord Berkeley, 58; Mr John Dankworth, jazz musician, 70; Sir Geoffrey Dear, former HM Inspector of Constabulary, Worcester 60; the Earl of Ducie, 46; the Very Rev George Earle, SJ, former Headmaster, Stonyhurst College, 72; Mr John Harle, saxophonist, composer and conductor, 41; the Right Rev C.C.W. James, former Bishop of Winchester, 71; Mr Robin Janvrin, Deputy Private Secretary to the Queen, 51; General Sir Garry Johnson, 60; Miss Sophia Loren, actress, 63; Miss Anne McIntosh, MP, MEP, 43; Professor R.M.H. McMinn, anatomist, 74; Mr D.L. Mahoney, deputy chairman and chief executive officer, Alexander Howden Group, 47; Miss Jane Manning, soprano, 59; Professor David Marquand, Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford, 63; Miss Christine Oddy, MEP, 42, the Right Rev Kenneth Riches, former Bishop of Lincoln, 89; Mr Jose Rivero, golfer, 42; Mr Jeremy Varcoe, former director-general, United World Colleges, 60; Sir John Whitehead, diplomat, 65; Mr Fred Winter, former racehorse trainer, 71.

TOMORROW:
Mr Ian Albery, impresario, 61; Lord Barnard, 74; the Hon Mrs Rhiannon Chapman, former director, Industrial Society, 51; Mr Leonard Cohen, singer, poet and composer, 63; Mrs Shirley Conran, writer, 65; Mr William Dacombe, banker, 63; Miss Mary Fetherston-Dilke, former matron-in-chief, QARNNS, 79; Commandant Marjorie Helen (Kelsey) Fletcher, former director, WRNS, 65; Mr Larry Hagman, actor, 66; Professor J.M. Ham, electrical engineer, 77; Mr John Hoddinott, Chief Constable, Hampshire, 53; Sir Colin Imray, former diplomat, 64; Lord Ironside, 73; Professor Sir Hugh Lloyd-Jones, FBA, Emeritus Professor of Greek, Oxford University, 75; Sir Ian MacGregor, former chairman, National Coal Board, 85; Sir Peter Matthews, company director, 75; Mr Simon Mayo, broadcaster, 39; Mr Anthony Millard, Headmaster, Giggleswick School, 49; Mr Bill Murray, actor, 47; Sir John A. Smith, former deputy commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 59. Sir Brian Unwin, president and chairman of the board, European Investment Bank, 62; Professor Bernard Williams, FBA, philosopher, 68; Mr Jimmy Young, broadcaster, 74.

ASHLEY COOMBES

Rosie Aylmer and Steven Bonsey, of Victoria, London, who have just announced their engagement

Dinners

Royal College of General Practitioners
Dr Lotte Newman, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, was the host at a dinner held last night at 14 Princes Gate, London. Mr Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, was the principal guest. Among others present were:
Lord Kilpatrick of Kincraig (President of the British Medical Association), Sir Donald Irvine (President of the General Medical Council), Dr A.W. Macara (Chairman of Council, British Medical Association), Presidents of Medical Royal Colleges and senior representatives of the medical, nursing and allied professions.

Chambers of Mr Patrick Eccles, QC
The Mayor and Mayoress of Kensington and Chelsea were the guests of honour at a dinner given by Mr Patrick Eccles, QC, last night at Middle Temple Hall. Among those present were:
His Honour James Irvine, Judge Hutton, Judge and Mrs Harold Wilson, Judge Paul Clark, Alderman Gavyn Arthur, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Gloucester, Mr and Mrs Christopher Frazer and members of the chambers and their escorts.

Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great
Sir Colin Marshall, President of the CBI, accompanied by Lady Marshall and Sir Colin Cole, were the guests of honour at the founder's dinner held last night in St Bartholomew's Hospital. The Rev Dr Martin Dudley, Rector of the Priory Church of St Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, presided. Among those present were:
Lord Lane of Horsell, the Masters of the Butchers', Founders', Farriers', Farmers' and Chartered Secretaries and Administrators' Companies, the Deputy Master of the Fletchers' Company, the Master of the Charterhouse, the Archdeacon of Oxford and Mr Alan Keat.

Appointment

High Court
Mr Anthony Philip Gilson Hughes, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Family Division.

The Leverhulme Trust

Leverhulme Research Awards 1997
Awards to individuals 1997

The trustees have approved the following awards to individuals under schemes administered by their research awards advisory committee:

Grants

R C Beacham, Professor, School of Theatre Studies, University of Warwick.
The theatre of Pompey project: initial data-search and preparation

S Bourget, Lecturer, University of East Anglia.
Funerary and sacrificial practices of the Moche culture

R M Brandon, Full-time writer.
The surrealists: art and politics 1918-1945

W Brus, Emeritus Professor and Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford.
Post-communist transformation in East-Central Europe

W J Cantwell, Senior Lecturer, Department of Materials, Science and Engineering, University of Liverpool.
Using today's waste tomorrow

W R L Cresswell, NERC Post-doctoral Research Fellow, University of Glasgow.
Which individuals do predators select?

F Devine, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Manchester.
Social mobility in America and Britain

P Fara, Research Fellow, Darwin College, University of Cambridge.
Isaac Newton: the making of a hero

J R Henderson, Lecturer, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Durham.
Fractures and permeability evolution in crystalline rocks

P G Hepper, Professor of Psychology, Queen's University of Belfast.
The prenatal development of behavioural laterality

A R Hoelzel, Reader in Molecular Ecology, University of Durham.
Molecular ecology of the killer whale

C Huang, University Reader in Cellular Physiology, University of Cambridge.
Early molecular events in activation of muscle

L Huckman, Research Associate, Bristol University.
Collaborative resource management in small primary schools

R W Ingle, Principal Scientific Officer (Retired).
Identification guide to N E Atlantic reptant crustaceans

K Khanin, Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, Heriot-Watt University.
Interactive random walks

J A C Mapanje, Professorial Research Fellow, University of Leeds.
Orality, relevance and the riddle

P Neagu, Self-Employed Director of "Generative Art Trust".
A visual hermeneutics — "Tossing fish over gate"

R J Paterson, Managing Director, Portsmouth Housing Association Group.
Development of community-based financial institutions

J R Rangasamy, Lecturer in Cultural Studies, University of Salford.
Kanubhai Gandhi's photographs of the Mahatma (1938-46)

M J Rosenthal, Senior Lecturer, University of Warwick.
Early colonial art in Australia

L Smith, Senior Lecturer, Department of Educational Research, Lancaster University.
Reasoning by recurrence in children's arithmetic

J P J Stock, Lecturer in Music, University of Durham.
Completion of a book on Shanghai opera

R N Swanson, Reader in Medieval Church History, University of Birmingham.
Church and economy in late medieval England

C A P Willsdon, Lecturer in the History of Art, University of Glasgow.
Mural painting in Scotland post 1940

N Wrigley, Professor of Geography, University of Southampton.
The post-LBO reconfiguration of US food retailing

G K H Zupanc, Lecturer in Integrative Animal Biology, University of Manchester.
Role of somatostatin in postnatal brain development

Emeritus Fellowships

H S Bachelard. MRS studies on perturbed brain metabolism

L H Barfield. Publication of the Molino Casarotto, Fimon excavations

R A Chapman. The Civil Service Commission 1855-1991

C P Courtney. Montesquieu: a study in bibliography and interpretation

D J Daniell. The English Bible: sources and effects

J S Dearden. Catalogue Raisonné of John Ruskin's drawings

J D Dodge. Coastline dinoflagellates of the British Isles

Sir Roger Elliott. Excitations in ordered and disordered solids

V George. The European welfare state in retreat?

G R Grace. Catholic schools in the inner city: contemporary challenges

B E Griffin. The Burkitt's lymphoma of African children

J R Hartley. Technology and changing patterns of collaborative teaching-learning

B G Hook. The Hong Kong system under Chinese sovereignty

D H Jenkinson. The pharmacology of novel potassium channel blockers

A M Livingstone. A book about the Russian writer Andrei Platonov

A G J Macfarlane. Technology for learning environments and learning communities

D Mayer. Visualising "the other": dramatising the immigration "crisis"

M M McGowan. The vision of Rome in late-Renaissance France

H Muirhead. The structure, function and regulation of proteins

E G S Paige. Phase-only spatial light modulation: performance and applications

G Rickayzen. A theory of molecular fluids

B F Roberts. An edition of the correspondence of Edward Lhywd

L Solymar. Space charge wave interactions in photo-refractive materials

M Spiro. (i) Electrical transport in wood. (ii) Nanoparticle catalysis in microemulsions

B C H Steele. Ceria based electrolytes: understanding and optimising performance

A M Stewart. Fitting cancer risk coefficients to three data sets

J D Stewart. The workings of local authorities

J R Tata, FRS. Hormonal regulation of programmed cell death

P D G Thomas. British politics 1760-1775

V Williams. Leaders and followers: reciprocal relationships in schools

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Campbell-Gray and Miss G.M. Stagnetto
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs I. Campbell-Gray, of Morden House, Guilden Morden, and Gabriella, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.V. Stagnetto, of King Street, Gibraltar.

Mr C.J. Chapman and Dr A.L.McC. Noble
The engagement is announced between Christopher James, son of Mr Anthony Chapman and Mrs Maureen H. Garrill, of Cambridgeshire, and Ann Lynn McCorquodale, twin daughter of the late Professor Iain W. Noble, WS, and of Dr Mary Noble, of Edinburgh.

Mr M.F.J. Edwards and Signorina M.G.C. Donarini
The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Professor and Dr John Edwards, of Oxford, and Marina, daughter of Avvocato and Signora Alberto Donarini, of Crema, Italy.

Mr J.N. Heath and Miss A. Payne
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs M.D. Heath, of Sheepy Parva, Warwickshire, and Anya, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. Payne, of St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr W. Meijer and Miss S.L. Fox
The engagement is announced between Wouter, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Herman Meijer, of Sandton, South Africa, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs James Fox, of Wivelsfield Green, East Sussex.

Mr W.J. Stisted and Miss R. Letty
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Brigadier and Mrs J.N. Stisted, of Edinburgh, and Rebecca, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.H. Letty, of Lymington, Hampshire.

Mr M. Krone and Miss G.A. Wynniatt-Husey
The engagement is announced between Morgan, younger son of Mr C.W. Krone, of New York, and Mrs Diana Krone, of Winchester, Hampshire, and Georgina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Reginald Wynniatt-Husey, of Marchington, Staffordshire.

Mr R.E. Mattock and Miss H.A. Nicholas
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Mattock, of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, and Hester, younger daughter of Mrs Charlotte Jackson and stepdaughter of Dr Aubrey Jackson, of Cassington, Oxfordshire.

Marriages

Mr M.T. Edwards and Miss S.G.T. Wilson
The marriage took place on September 4, in Nassau, Bahamas, between Michael Edwards and Stephanie Wilson. A celebration was held on September 19 at Mount Murray Country Club, Isle of Man.

Mr N. Punwani and Miss K. Weidmann
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 6, at Exeter College Chapel, Oxford, between Mr Neil Punwani, only son of Mr and Mrs Gul C. Punwani, of Ealing, London, and Miss Katherine Weidmann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric J. Weidmann, of New Malden, Surrey. Father Peter Newby officiated.

Mr N.J.D. Rena and Miss R.F. Broughton
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 13, 1997, at St Mary's Church, Harrow on the Hill, of Mr Nicholas Rena, elder son of Mr and Mrs Oliver Rena, to Miss Rachael Broughton, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Broughton.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Sir George Robey, comedian, London, 1869; Upton Sinclair, novelist, Baltimore, Maryland, 1878; Stevie Smith (pseudonym of Florence Smith), poet, Hull, 1902; Kenneth More, actor, Gerrards Cross, 1914.

DEATHS: John Gauden, Bishop of Worcester 1662, Worcester, 1662; Robert Emmet, Irish patriot, executed, Dublin, 1803; Jacob Grimm, philologist and collector of folk tales, Berlin, 1863; Jean Sibelius, Jarvenpaa, Finland, 1957; George Seferis, poet, Nobel laureate 1963, Athens, 1971.

Salisbury Cathedral was consecrated, 1258.

Ferdinand Magellan set sail from Seville with a fleet of five small ships in an attempt to circumnavigate the world, 1519.

British, French and Turkish forces defeated the Russians at the battle of Alma in the Crimea, 1854. Six Victoria Crosses were awarded.

The Queen Elizabeth 2 was launched, Clydebank, 1967.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Girolamo Savonarola, preacher and martyr, Ferrara, Italy, 1452; John McAdam, inventor of the road surface of that name, Ayr, 1756; Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland 1806-10, Ajaccio, Corsica, 1778; Sir Edmund Gosse, critic, London, 1849; H.G. Wells, novelist, Bromley, Kent, 1866; Gustave Holst, composer, Cheltenham, 1874; Sir Allen Lane, publisher, founder of Penguin Books (1936), Bristol, 1902; Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana 1957-60, President 1960-66, Nkroful, 1909.

DEATHS: Virgil, Roman poet, Brundisium (Brindisi), 19 BC; King Edward II, reigned 1307-27, murdered, Berkeley Castle, Gloucestershire, 1327; Girolamo Cardin, mathematician and physician, Rome, 1576; Sir Walter Scott, novelist and poet, Abbotsford, Borders, 1832; Lord George Bentinck, sportsman and statesman, Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire, 1848; Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher, Frankfurt, 1860; Abraham Victor Rydberg, philosopher and poet, Djursholm, Sweden, 1895; Sir Montague Burton, multiple tailor, Leeds, 1952; Haakon VII, King of Norway 1905-57, Oslo, 1957; Henry de Montherlant, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1972.

Prince Charles Edward defeated the forces of King George II at the battle of Prestonpans, 1745.

The first recorded western film, the 21-minute long *Kit Carson*, opened in America, 1903.

Stonehenge and 30 acres around it were sold at auction for £6,600 to Mr C H. Chubb who later presented it to the nation, 1915.

ON THIS DAY

September 20, 1973

When Carl Gustaf became King of Sweden in 1973 he refused to wear a crown for the ceremony, following a tradition set by his grandfather. His reign has been remarkable for its informality

King Carl Gustaf and his family on his 41st birthday in 1987: no pomp, no ceremony

NO CROWN AS CARL BECOMES KING

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Stockholm, Sept 19

Carl XVI Gustaf, aged 27, today acceded to the throne of the Swedes, Goths and Wends in a resplendent ceremony at Stockholm Palace.

The youthful ruler promised to broaden his understanding of this deeply egalitarian nation, and said his royal motto would be, roughly translated, "For Sweden - in keeping with the times". In the tradition of Gustaf VI Adolf, who died last Saturday, he declined to wear the crown.

He was dressed simply in a navy blue suit when he opened the King-in-Council ceremony at the palace.

He was sworn in at a special Cabinet meeting. Mr Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, read the death certificate of Gustaf Adolf.

The new monarch then swore to observe the constitutional laws of the realm as a "loving father of the Swedish people" and to "do all within our power to further the true weal and welfare of the realm and its every inhabitant".

Through an oversight, no pen was available for the King to sign the oath. With a chuckle, he turned to some aides and asked, "Does someone have a pen?" A ball point was produced.

In his first pronouncement from the throne, he told the nation that his grandfather "gave to us, his family, his deep human warmth, his friendship and his concern. After the premature death of my father, Prince Gustaf Adolf, my grandfather became our central figure and the never failing mainstay of my family".

Prince Gustaf Adolf died in an air crash in 1947, and the Crown Prince was raised by Princess Sibylla and his grandfather. Carl Gustaf was known to be intensely devoted to the old King.

His accession comes at a critical moment in the country's history, with the socialist and non-socialist parties each allotted 175 seats in the new Parliament which will assemble in January.

A memorial service to Gustaf Adolf was held later in the palace chapel. It was attended by the King, members of the Cabinet, chiefs of the armed forces, members of the court and other guests.

Under the new constitution which comes into effect in 1975, the King's status will be reduced to that of a ceremonial figurehead. Among other things, he will no longer be required at King-in-Council meetings.

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No one who loves money can ever have enough, and no one who loves wealth enjoys any return from it. This too is futility. Ecclesiastes 5 : 10

BIRTHS

BARBOUR/ADAM - On 6th September, to Kathryn and Stephen, a daughter, Iona Lucy Violet.

CAMPBELL - On 16th September, to Marina and Jamie, twins, Isla and Hugh.

CARR-JONES - To Gena and James, on September 8th at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, a beautiful son, Christopher Seleye.

CHRISP - On September 14th 1997, to Caroline (née Bayne) and Harry, a son, Samuel Henry.

CLARK - On September 18th to Claire and Simon, the gift of a beautiful daughter, Odette Rebecca Diana. With grateful thanks to the wonderful staff and midwives at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow.

DESMOND - On 18th September at St John's Hospital, Chelmsford to Julie (née Laing) and Aaron, a daughter, Lucy Anne, a sister for Daisy.

HAYES - On 15th September in London to Victoria (née Miers) and Andrew, another bonny daughter; Helena Honor "Nell", a sister for Daisy.

LEACH - On September 14th, 1997 to Nina (née Donaldson) and John, a beautiful daughter, Olivia Mary, a sister for Sam.

McVEIGH - On September 17th, at Farnborough Hospital, Kent, to Alice and Simon, a daughter, Rachel Elizabeth.

BIRTHS

NICHOLSON - On 17th September 1997 to Catherine and Henry, a daughter, Miranda Lily Christina.

PERKINS-BROWN - On Saturday September 13th to Doctors Stephanie and Duncan, a son, Oliver Duncan.

STANDING - On 8th September 1997 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Claire and Michael, a daughter, Isobel Francis.

STASZEWSKI - On 12th September at The Portland Hospital, to Karen and Clive, a daughter, Adina, a sister for Dov and Talia.

ANNIVERSARIES

SHEPPARD:EDWARDS - Happy anniversary Caroline, lots of love, Martin.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

SUNDERLAND - Roy to Barbara (née Harvey) at Richmond Methodist Church, Penzance 21st September 1957.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

KIRCHIN SMITH:WILLINK - On 20th September 1947 at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Michael and Rachel. Now at Epwell, Oxfordshire. Blessed in our clan of 2 daughters, 4 sons and 11 grandchildren. Deo gratias.

DEATHS

AGATE - On 16th September 1997, after a long illness, Noel, beloved husband of Nancy, father of Nick, Anthony and Liz, grandfather of Yan, Ben, Nicola, Kerry, Joe and Ella. Thanksgiving Service at St Peter's, Berkhamsted, on Tuesday 30th September at 11am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St Peter's Church.

ASHTON - Deborah Jane aged 43, died on September 17th 1997 after a short illness. She was the beloved daughter of Alan and Brenda Ashton and sister of Nigel Mark Ashton. Her warmth and generosity of spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. For enquiries about arrangements, please telephone 01732 452664.

ATTFIELD - William Stanley (formerly of Wells) peacefully after a long illness aged 93. Dear father and grandfather. Funeral Gloucester Crematorium 12.30pm Friday September 26th. Family flowers. Any donations to J.R. Whippet Rescue. Tel 01234 838927

BOYDELL - Margaret. Peacefully at Highcroft Private Nursing Home, Colwyn Bay on September 16th aged 86. Funeral service at St Hilary's Church, Llanrhos on Thursday 25th September at 11.15am followed by cremation. No flowers please, donations may be sent for the R.N.L.I. Enquiries and donations to T. Conchar & Sons, 4 Woodland Rd. West, Colwyn Bay. Tel: 01492 532206.

BROWNE - On September 17th 1997, Jean of Trelill, Cornwall. Beloved wife of Guy and much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral St. Endellion Church, Friday September 26th at 2pm. Donations to The Stroke Association, c/o R. Bray, Bridge End, Wadebridge.

FINNEY - Peter John, (once resident of Aulton Place, Kennington and Mancunian Born). The funeral and service will take place in London at West Norwood Cemetery on the twenty-fifth of September at ten o'clock in the morning. Mourners welcome to attend. Contact no: (0171) 652 5694.

FRASER - Susan Margaret on September 18th peacefully at home. Beloved wife of Ewan, mother of Francesca, Alexandra and Simon.

HOLLOWAY - John Anthony Denham died peacefully at home on 17th September aged 60. Dearest beloved husband of Anne-Marie, generous and dearly loved father to Guy, Jason and Zoe, much loved brother of Gillian. He inspired us all with his determined battle against cancer. He fought to the last. His spirit lives on in all of us. Funeral Service to take place at St Paul's Church, Warren Road, Nork, at 11am on Thursday 25th September followed by interment at the Brookwood Cemetery, Woking. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to local charities may be sent c/o W. A. Truelove & Son 121 High Street, Banstead, Surrey SM7 2NS. Tel: 01737 212160.

INGOLDBY - Reginald, died peacefully on 17th September after a short illness aged 83 years. Much loved husband of Diana, father of Grace and Mary, stepfather to Charles, Matthew and Sarah. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at Farley Chamberlayne Church on Thursday 25th September at 3.30pm. Flowers may be sent to A.H. Chester, Funeral Directors, Romsey, Hants.

JONES - Christopher Dowcra on 19th September, peacefully after a long illness courageously borne. Dearly beloved husband of Friedel and sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service to take place on Friday 26th September at Mortlake Crematorium at 1.30pm. Family flowers only please, but donations to Sequal Trust or Guru Nanak Trust Fund. All enquiries to J H Kenyon, 0171 937 0757.

LONG - Peacefully on September 17th 1997 aged 76 years, Ronald Frederick. Beloved Husband of Sheila and Father of Rosamund and Valerie. Memorial Service at Stow on the Wold Parish Church on Wednesday September 24th at 3 pm. Family flowers only please.

WILLIAMS - John Meredith on Tuesday 16th September 1997, aged 70. Dearly loved by Jean and all his family, whom he loved and cared for deeply. Cremation private. Celebration of his life at St Paul's Church Hammersmith, Queen Caroline Street, W6 on Monday 29th September at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

PULLEN - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lester William Pullen will be held at Holy Trinity, Brompton, on Monday October 13th at 3pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

GOSWAMI - Upendra Lal. I.C.S. (Retd.). Died 20 September 1991. Death is a release to those who have passed away but grief continues to sting those who are left behind. Mourning and missing you every day - Hena, Supriya, Usasi and Arjun.

PHILLIPS - Alfred 'Al'. My beloved husband on your birthday and every day, you lived forever in my heart, and the love that I have is yours, Val.

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WRITER Seeks old material on Hotel Metropole, Hanoi, Vietnam. Please call +43 664 2097180. I will call you back.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, Beauty, all theatre, Oasis, all pop, Cricket, Rugby 0171 480 6183

OASIS Tickets for sale. Earls Court 25th September. 6 Standing. Best offer secures. Call Marc on 0181 968 4030 (eves)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: The Mayhew Home
Scheme for the regulation of the Charity
Reference: KAT/5123/CDXT)

The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at COOLE & HADDOCK 14 CARFAX HORSHAM WEST SUSSEX RH12 1DZ (quoting reference JGL/RSPCA), or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

CARTER LESLIE JAMES STARKIE LATE OF 43 LANGFORD COURT, LANGFORD PLACE, LONDON NW8 WHO DIED ON 9TH JANUARY 1997 PARTICULARS TO KEITH HALL RIVLEE & CO 422 GREENFORD ROAD, GREENFORD, MIDDX UB6 9AG. BEFORE THE 25TH NOVEMBER 1997.

HOLLOW, FREDERICK GEORGE of 25 Sheridan Lodge, Homesdale Road, Bromley, Kent died on 22 July 1997 particulars to PETER EGAN & COMPANY Solicitors of 62 LEWISHAM HIGH STREET, LONDON SE13 5JH before 21 November 1997

TAYLOR, IVY ELIZABETH of 4 The Dell Vigo Lane, Yateley, Hampshire died on 17 March 1997 particulars to CLOSE GOFF HUMPHREYS Solicitors of 90 PARK STREET, CAMBERLEY, SURREY GU15 3NY before 21 November 1997.

LEGAL NOTICES

APPLICATION FOR THE PROVISIONAL GRANT OF A JUSTICE'S ON-LICENCE
Licensing Act 1964 Section 6 and Schedule 2

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN
I, RICHARD JAMIE DUTTON-FORSHAW of Unit 36 Battersea Business Centre 103 Lavender Hill London SW11 5QF the Applicant having during the last six months carried on the trade or calling of Company Director HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to make application at the Licensing Sessions for the East Central Petty Sessional Division to be held at Highbury Corner Magistrates Court East Central PSD 51 Holloway Road London N7 8JA on MONDAY THE 6TH OCTOBER NEXT at 10.00 a.m. for the Provisional Grant to me of a Justices' On-License authorising me to sell by retail all descriptions of intoxicating liquor for consumption either on or off the premises to be constructed/altered and situated at 188 and 190 New North Road Islington London N1 7BJ and presently known by the sign of "The King & Bishop" Public House. The said premises are owned by Greene King Plc of Westgate Brewery, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 5QF.

A plan of the premises to be constructed/altered has been deposited with the Clerk to the Licensing Justices.

Dated the 12th day of September 1997

Ivor Levy & Co,
Solicitors
9/11 Wembley Hill Road,
Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8AF
Ref:- IBL/CB/JDTKAB
Tel: 0181 900 0199/Fax: 0181 900 2507.
Authorised Agent for the Applicant

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-680 6878 OR FAX0171-481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

[illegible]

OBITUARIES

JACK MAY

Jack May, actor, died yesterday aged 75. He was born on April 23, 1922.

With his suave accents and polished come-to-bed manner, the character of Nelson Gabriel, as memorably enacted by Jack May, was something of an enigma in the rustic world of that awesomely long-lived radio soap, *The Archers*. Latterly, of course, he and his Borchester wine bar had seemed less out of place in a serial which, in past years, had been furiously and trendily updating itself to be more in tune with the *mores* of the late 20th century. Drugs, abortion, live-in gay relationships, depression, suicide, Jennifer Aldridge trying to learn to fly are now staple fare, at a far remove from the original gentle bucolics of a rural Britain still in a state of innocence in such matters.

Yet, when Nelson Gabriel first joined the cast, not so long after *The Archers* first went on the air in 1951 as a BBC Light Programme "experiment", he did so as a somewhat mysterious figure. What on earth was an "antiques dealer" (as he then was) doing in a programme which billed itself as "a tale of country folk"? And how had the son of the conspicuously loamy-voiced Walter Gabriel acquired a speaking voice which argued some immersion in a public school, even if only one of a minor and possibly spurious nature? His antecedents were always left deliberately vague. His background was apparently RAF, but whether that had been at wingco or warrant officer level was never precisely established. His father would have liked to see him in jail — and nearly did when his son was implicated in the Great Borchester Mail Van Robbery, for which which he was tried and happily acquitted. This was a case of *Archers* scriptwriters suffering from one of their periodic — and rather charming — rushes of blood to the head.

Nevertheless, in general, in a programme which, in those far-off days, concerned itself much more with the state of Britain's postwar agricultural economy than it does now, Nelson and his activities never seemed totally out of place. A two-minute visit to the antiques shop once or twice a week, provided a soothing counterpoint to the problems of bringing on the spring wheat; lifting the potatoes; or battling to accomplish the lambing against the hostility of the elements.

By the time Nelson's antiques gave way to the wine bar in the 1970s, life had changed in Ambridge, too. Young (and generally female) sophisticates had abandoned the milkpail and the beer pump for the frenzied life of solicitors' offices and snatched lunchbreaks over a glass of spritzer. Father Gabriel might still be quaffing pints of Shires ale at the Bull in the company of Tom Forrest — a vignette of senescent rusticity if there ever was one — but the young folk would almost certainly be patronising Nelson's in-town premises with their background *muzak*, open sandwiches, Cabernet Sauvignon by the bottle and tinkling, kittenish conversation: "Oh, no, not *another* one Nigel, I'm *supposed* to be driving".

Being chained, as he was, to a soap of such formidably enduring character tended to obscure the fact that Jack May was a fine actor with a solid repertory experience behind him. Born at Henley-on-Thames and educated at The Forest School, Essex, after war service in the RAF in India he was offered a place at RADA but turned it down in favour of a place at Merton College, Oxford. This did his acting no harm. He was active in OUDS and was determined to be an actor when he came down.

He had always set his sights on Birmingham Rep, then the starting point outside London for any stage career. Eventually, he was invited by its producer Douglas Seal to audition for a small part in that never easy Shakespearean exercise, the three parts of *Henry VI*. After a read-through it became apparent that the Birmingham Rep had acquired a star, and May soon found himself cast as the eponymous hero. He carried the play, the production of which was so successful that it was given an airing at the Old Vic. By general consent among the critics, May's rendering of Henry's heartbroken lament:

O God! methinks it were a happy life
To be no better than a homely swain....

which was to foreshadow the great outpouring of Shakespeare's *Richard II*), was the riveting centre of the production.

In 1951, the year of its launch, Tony Shryane, producer of what was then seen as a farming serial, *The Archers*, approached May and asked him if he would like a part. It was an inspired choice to fit a character of his kidney into a programme which bade fair at its outset to sound like a radio version of Virgil's *Georgics*. May (in the person of Nelson) added the touch of louche barfly, slightly dodgy, hovering on the brink of criminality, which counterbalanced the earnest accents of rural economics. Eventually the whizz-kid aged a trifle but, whether as antiques dealer or wine bar proprietor, he always had a definable niche.

Nelson's love-life was always something of a mystery. He "never married" — but was he a homosexual? Certainly the demanding Julia Pargetter, widow and mother of the toffee-nosed and tiresome Nigel, did not think so, since she danced assiduous attendance on him, even somewhat obtrusively, helping him with his interior décor on occasions.

May's *Archers* career was a classic example of how an individual can become indistinguishable from his soap opera role. Yet, for May, there was life outside *The Archers*. He acted in a number of films, notably *The man Who Would Be King*, and was familiar on television in drama productions which ranged from *Goodbye Mr Chips* to *The Age of Kings*.

He is survived by his wife, the actress Petra Davies, and by a son and a daughter.

GERD WAGNER

Gerd Wagner, Deputy to the High Representative to Bosnia, was killed on September 17 in a helicopter crash near Sarajavo aged 55. He was born in 1942.

LAST Wednesday's helicopter crash in western Bosnia has robbed Germany of one of its finest and best-liked diplomats. Gerd Wagner was delighted when the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, asked him to become the joint deputy to Carlo Westendorp, the High Representative to Bosnia, a post which Wagner only took up in July.

Until had then Wagner been working as Deputy Chief of Mission and Head of the Political Department at the German Embassy in Washington, where he had already developed a reputation as an astute diplomatic operator who made many friends and very few enemies.

But he had also spent long periods working on the former Yugoslavia and after three and a half years in Washington was keen to return to the region. He joined the German Foreign Ministry in 1971 after university, where he read English. His first foreign posting was in 1973 as press attaché at the German Embassy in Belgrade. During his four years in the post, Wagner learnt to speak Serbo-Croat with a graceful fluency, while developing a thorough knowledge of Yugoslavia's turbulent history.

After a spell in Beirut, he was then transferred to work on Nato and arms control issues before being sent for his first posting in Washington, which he left in 1987. The collapse of communism found

Wagner in Germany. As the situation in Yugoslavia began to deteriorate, he was seconded by the Foreign Ministry to assist the Social Democrat Party (SPD) on the Balkans. Wagner considered his work with the SPD a golden opportunity as he found hmself less constrained than in the course of his normal duties as a diplomat.

In a rare moment of immodesty, Wagner once described how he cooked up the plan to recognise Slovenia and Croatia as independent states while travelling by train from the Slovene capital, Ljubljana, on an SPD fact-finding mission. Pressure exerted by the SPD on the Government was one of the crucial factors which persuaded the then Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, to break with European Union policy and advocate the unconditional recognition of Croatia and Slovenia. Later, Wagner admitted that he had become disillusioned with the regime of the Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman, especially with regard to Croatian policy in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A staunch Anglophile who married an Englishwoman, Wagner was a valued friend to all who knew him in Washington. His broad smile and muscle-bound constitution disguised a sharpness of wit able to assimilate and then offer a shrewd analysis to the most complex political problems. In his short time as Deputy High Representative, Wagner had gained the respect of all three sides in the Bosnian morass.

Wagner started his life as a refugee. Born in the Sudetenland, he was one of the millions of Germans expelled from Eastern Europe after the Second World War. In Bosnia, he devoted himself to ensuring the return of all nationalities who had been "ethnically cleansed" from their homes. When the helicopter crashed, he was on his way to Bugojno trying to persuade Croat refugees to go back to their homes. The most fitting tribute to him came from the Muslim mayor of Bugojno, Dzevad Mlaco, who said that the helicopter crash "shook us all, especially because a simple and noble man, Gerd Wagner, has died. He connected people."

Gerd Wagner is survived by his wife Sandra, their two sons and a daughter.

CHARLES MORPETH

Charles Morpeth, MBE, a political adviser in the office of the UN High Representative to Bosnia, was killed on September 17 in a helicopter crash near Sarajevo aged 37. He was born on January 10, 1960.

CHARLES MORPETH was a former British soldier but he was probably best defined by his enduring involvement with peace-seeking and peacekeeping. He was a man of compassion, someone whose energy and gentle charm left every individual he touched with an inner sense of well-being. He held a quiet but profound Christian faith and for him soldiering and then secondment to the UN department at the Foreign Office, followed by his role as a UN adviser in Bosnia, were very much the means by which he addressed the demands of his personal convictions.

Charles Robert Dobson Morpeth was educated at Epsom College. He went on to take an MA in Arabic and Economics at Edinburgh University and was commissioned into the (then) Queens Own Highlanders. Whether serving in Northern Ireland or Hong Kong he was, as a former commanding officer saidf, "simply *better* than anyone else". He travelled extensively throughout the world. He spoke Arabic,

Swedish, French and a little Russian. He was a keen sportsman especially at hockey and cricket, where his energy and enthusiasm were infectious.

A high-flyer, he would certainly have remained in the Army if he had not discovered that he suffered from epilepsy while taking the Staff College course at Camberley. Before leaving the Army, and with characteristic energy, he completed two staff jobs, in the Ministry of Defence and as a liaison officer at the Foreign Office, working largely on the British military deployment in Bosnia. In recognition of his achievements in the MoD he was appointed MBE (mil) in 1995.

His departure from the Army served only to concentrate his concept of service elsewhere and he explored a variety of possibilities for international humanitarian work before becoming a political adviser to the High Representative to Bosnia in March this year. His last few months were spent in pursuit of peace through the reform of the police in the former Yugoslavia and negotiating freedom of movement, two key elements of the Dayton Peace process.

He is survived by his wife Helene and a daughter born last February, just before his departure for Sarajevo.

ANNA PLOWDEN

Anna Plowden, CBE, died from cancer on August 21 aged 59. She was born on June 18, 1938.

ANNA PLOWDEN made a vital and wide-ranging contribution to the care of the world's artistic heritage. She was herself an expert conservator and restorer, and she founded and helped to run one of the most active and respected companies in the field, working on the preservation of important works of art in all media and of all periods. But she was also deeply committed to the development of the British conservation industry, and played a significant and inspirational role both in improving its standards through professional training and in raising its public profile.

Anna Bridget Plowden was the second of the four children of the two life peers, Baron and Baroness Plowden. She was educated at New Hall, Chelmsford, and then trained as an archaeological conservator at the London Institute of Archaeology. In 1963-64 she won the British School of Archaeology fellowship to Baghdad to conserve ivories being excavated from Nimrud Palace.

Her special interest became the conservation of excavated bronzes, which involved painstakingly removing corrosion layers, chemically stabilising them and revealing the original patina. She built a business as a freelance conservator and formed her own company in 1968. Then in 1985, with Peter Smith, previously a metals conservator at the British Museum, she set up Plowden & Smith, which became one of the biggest conservation companies in the world — and probably the best-known.

The company provided conservation services to a wide and often illustrious clientele, tackling an almost limitless range of materials — metals, furniture, ceramics, stonework, painted surfaces — from

prehistoric excavated remains to contemporary art, from cathedral organ cases to miniatures. The company also offered an exhibition display service used by major galleries and museums.

Together with her early colleague, Frances Halahan, Plowden wrote *Looking After Antiques* in 1987. However exalted her clients or high-profile her work, she remained firmly in touch with the practicalities of conservation. She liked to get her hands dirty, even in her last weeks determinedly appearing in the workshops to conserve some artifact or other. Also ready to get her hands dirty when off duty, she was amused at gaining a higher mark than her brother William when they took a stoker's course for steam engines on the Bluebell Railway.

One of her passions was for the training of young people. She resented the fact that conservators from overseas seemed more able to obtain funding for their training than British students. At the London Institute of Archaeology, she was for some years an external lecturer. As an employer, she made a point of recruiting students from reputable training courses. Nowhere else could budding conservators learn more thoroughly to balance the demands of the commercial restoration world with maintaining high standards.

As assessor for ceramics conservation at West Dean College for 16 years, she was a penetrating interviewer. As Trustee of the Edward James Foundation from 1991, she adopted the remit for conservation studies within West Dean College. As a council member of the Royal Warrant Holders Association and recently its vice-president (she was to have been president next year) she supported young conservators and other young people setting off on their careers with scholarships from the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust. At the Victoria and Albert Museum, of which she was a trustee, she advised, among other things, on the training of conservators. She was also a council member of the Textile Conservation Centre for training in that field.

Her career as a conservator coincided with the maturing of the profession, even if this never went fast enough for her. She played an active part in that development. Her dismay at the loss of conservation from the remit of the Crafts Council, where she had been its conservation committee chairman from 1979 until 1983, transformed into energetic lobbying which resulted in the setting up of the conservation unit within the Museums and Galleries Commission, where she was a member of the conservation committee from 1987 until this year.

On the committee of the UK Institute for Conservation, she campaigned for accreditation of professional conservators, something which is now about to happen, some 15 years later. She believed that private conservation was able to contribute quality and style to public sector conservation, and that price competition should never be allowed to undermine quality. She was convinced that British conservation is the best in the world, and was dismayed that somehow this was never fully recognised, even within the UK. It is significant that hers was one of the few British companies to bother attending international trade fairs.

Anna Plowden was unmarried, but she remained close to her siblings and parents, and was also an active resident in her local Brixton community. She was appointed CBE in the New Year's honours this year.

MILESTONES

Stikkan "Stig" Anderson, former manager and producer of the pop group Abba, died on September 12 aged 66. He was born on January 25, 1931.

"Stig" Anderson gave Swe-

den its biggest export after Volvo cars, when he unleashed Abba on the world in 1973. *Waterloo*, the song that won the Eurovision Song Contest, began a career that was to make them the biggest-selling pop act since the Beatles. *Abba's Greatest Hits* was the bestselling British album of 1976; in that year one in 20 Britons bought an ABBA record.

Obituary published September 16.

Donald Seaman, former Daily Express foreign correspondent, died on September 12 aged 75. He was born on May 25, 1922.

Donald Seaman was one of the stars of foreign news reporting in the days when dispatches from correspondents filled columns in even mass circulation newspapers. During the late 1950s and 1960s there were few wars or insurrections he did not cover. He made his name covering the defection of Burgess and Maclean, and with his book *The Great Spy Scandal*.

Obituary published September 16.

Janet Leach, potter, died in St Ives on September 12 aged 79. She was born in Texas on March 15, 1918.

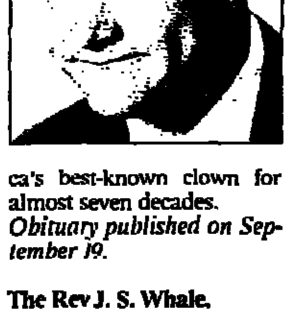
Janet Leach never allowed herself to be overshadowed by her husband, Bernard Leach, the most influential of modern potters. For many years she ran his business, the Leach Pottery in St Ives, but her own work remained quite distinct from his. She was the first Western woman to study pottery in Japan, and her pots combine traditional Japanese techniques and forms with sim-

ple, irregular shapes and a bold, innovative use of poured glaze decoration.

Obituary published on September 17.

Red Skelton, comic actor, died on September 17 aged 84. He was born in Indiana on July 18, 1913.

Red Skelton was one of those comedians who made a successful transition from vaudeville to radio and then cinema and television. A master of the pratfall, with perfect timing, a rubber face and a rich stock of comic characters, he was Ameri-



ca's best-known clown for almost seven decades.

Obituary published on September 19.

The Rev J. S. Whale, Congregational minister and sometime Headmaster of Mill Hill School, died on September 17 aged 100. He was born on December 19, 1896.

J. S. Whale was a distinguished historian and theologian and a preacher of extraordinary power; Lloyd George once described him as "a genius of the pulpit". A survivor of the great age of Nonconformism, he exerted a spiritual and intellectual influence that extended far beyond the bounds of any one denomination. His 1941 study of *Christian Doctrine* became a standard work, used in theological colleges for more than half a century.

Obituary published on September 19.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF TEXTILE RESOURCE LTD AND THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 10 September 1997, we, Malvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU, and Jonathan Joseph Schapira of Leonard Curtis & Co, P O Box 553, 30, Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 6LF were duly appointed Joint Liquidators of the company. M J Carter J J Schapira Dated this 10 September 1997

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION CHARITY: The residuary estate of the late Agnes Worrall The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: KS-3088572/89118-Legal(Liv)) at Charity Commission, 2nd floor, 20 Kings Parade, Queens Dock, Liverpool, L3 4DQ. Objections and suggestions may be sent to them within one month from today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRATEFUL thanks to Saint Jude for favours received. J and PC.

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ALEXANDER - Daphne, last seen March 1986 Gibraltar, then you went to Singapore. Your father was in the Gordon Highlanders. Alan Dennis, Box 2759, Revelstoke, BC, Canada, V0E 2S0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1997

NEWS

Six dead in London rail disaster

■ Crash investigators were last night examining the theories that driver error or faulty signalling caused yesterday's rail crash which killed six and injured 170, 13 of them seriously.

The collision between an InterCity Swansea-London service and a freight train at Southall raised renewed concerns that little progress has been made to rail safety in the wake of the Clapham disaster nine years ago in which 35 died................ **Pages 1, 2, 3**

Diana crash survivor recalls nothing

■ The survivor of the crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales died remembers nothing about the accident, French investigators reported after interviewing him. Meanwhile, the Prince of Wales thanked the public for their support.......... **Pages 1, 5, 16**

Ulster talks

David Trimble will become the first Unionist leader in Northern Ireland's 76-year history to confront his Sinn Fein counterpart face-to-face........................ **Page 4**

Lockerbie hunt off

The hunt for the Lockerbie bombers is effectively being called off by ministers who have given up hope of justice........................... **Page 9**

Internet threat

Broadcasters risk losing audiences and revenue as more people switch to the Internet, a senior BBC executive said.......... **Page 10**

Final curtain

Dennis Marks, 49, the general director of English National Opera, resigned months after failing to build a new opera house **Page 10**

Judgment day

A church which uses rap and hip-hop music to attract worshippers was found guilty of praising the Lord too loudly .... **Page 11**

Triathlon times

Mass-participation triathlon, a sport born in the surf of Hawaii, reaches a new height in London............................. **Page 13**

Will of Wales

The wafer-thin majority for Welsh devolution is the worst possible basis on which to introduce a major constitutional change. **Peter Riddell** .... **Page 14**

History lesson

President Clinton will go home to Arkansas to commemorate the day it took 1,000 paratroopers to enable nine children to go to school.............................. **Page 17**

Vintage Italian

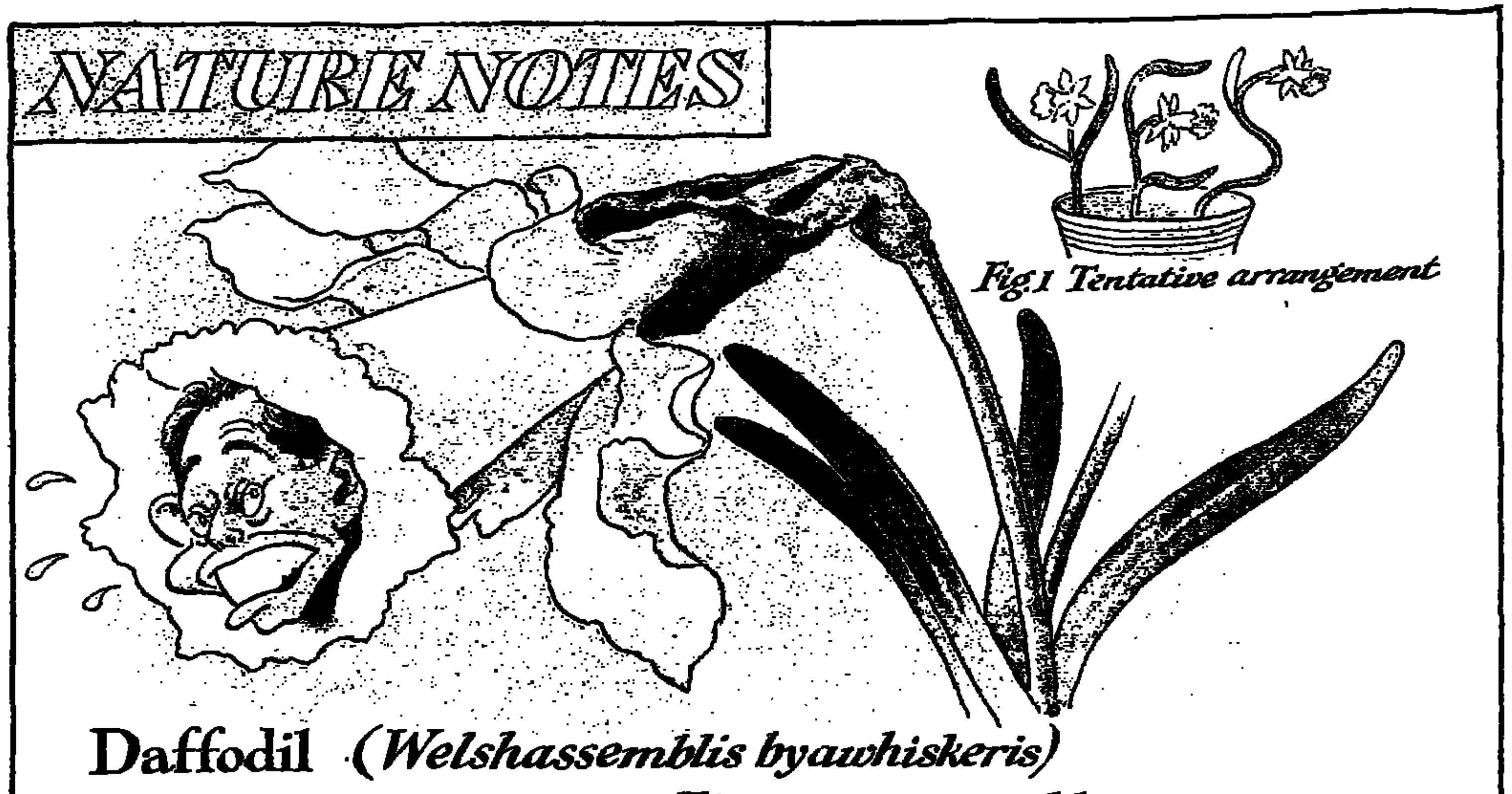
Italian wine is heading for its best vintage since 1947 .... **Page 18**

Home for diamond

The Hope Diamond takes centre stage as the crown of America's jewels in a new Washington home.............................. **Page 19**

Amazon task for Oxbridge crews

■ The choppy, piranha-infested waters of the Amazon, where electric eels and unpleasant fish abound, may be the least of the problems for the young blades from Oxford and Cambridge who are to restage the boat race along rainforest shores....... **Page 15**



Daffodil *(Welshassemblis byawhiskeris)*

Not a lot to trumpet here. The variety would appear to favour borders, but then again perhaps not.

20 ix 97 Peter Brookes

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Christopher Bland, the BBC Chairman, defends the management U-turn which headed off a revolt of BBC journalists. "It would be foolish to pretend that the intensity of the reaction didn't surprise all of us"............................ **Page 23**

William's Wobbly Week: Michael Gove traces the worst seven days in William Hague's Tory leadership.............. **Pages 20, 21**

Big Wheel over London: All you need to know about the new London landmark above the Thames.............. **Page 22**

OPINION

Lesson from Llanelli: The lesson from Wales for ministers is that if they want to ensure public assent for a change as momentous as entry to EMU, a referendum is the only honest way of divining views.................. **Page 25**

Beijing's big risk: To secure China's future, leaders need to shrink the state .... **Page 25**

OBITUARIES

Jack May, Nelson Gabriel in The Archers; **Gerd Wagner,** UN Representative, Bosnia; **Anna Plowden,** conservator and restorerer .... **Page 27**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: This BBC has become the *Neighbours* of the chattering classes, a turmoil of human emotion in a bungalow stuffed with goodies...................... **Page 24**

Simon Barnes: It is generally agreed that literature matters more than sport. But when it comes to the moment for literature to steal the spotlight, it does so by pretending it is a sport......................... **Page 24**

LETTERS

Alan Clark on Tory reform plans; influential military leaders .... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Drinks cheer: Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, is willing to compromise on objections to the merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan.................. **Page 29**

Laura Ashley: Ann Iverson, the embattled chief executive of Laura Ashley, has turned to a management consultant to help to sort out production problems.................. **Page 29**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 22.4 points to 5023.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 100.6 to 100.2 after a fall from $1.6157 to $1.6080 and DM2.8612 to DM2.8486................ **Page 32**

SPORT

Motor racing: Damon Hill completed formalities of a two-year deal with Jordan believed to be worth £10 million **Page 56**

Football: A four-year inquiry by the FA has revealed "unacceptable and unsavoury activities" in transfer deals....... **Page 56**

Cricket: Centuries by Alec Stewart and Darren Bicknell for Surrey held up Kent's challenge for the county championship............... **Page 50**

Golf: The Ryder Cup to be staged in Ireland . **Page 49**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Don's daughter: Victoria Gotti on her mobster father .... **Page 10**
Heat is on: The chefs of the Aubergine and Mezzo swap kitchens...... **Page 44**
Fashion: India Hicks, granddaughter of Lord Mountbatten, shows designs inspired by the 50th anniversary of independence .... **Page 36**
Rich kids .... **Page 28**

metro

Cover girl: Talented, beautiful and private, Jennifer Ehle is a tough nut to crack..................... **Page 6**
Booker judge: Jason Cowley gives his verdict on the shortlist .... **Page 16**
Giant leap: One small step for Matthew Bourne, the man who is taking the classics into the next century.............. **Page 24**

THE WEEKEND
WEEKEND

Raising a glass: Secrets of the wine taster....... **Page 1**
Back with a boom: House prices are soaring again...................... **Page 3**
The game of life: Max Clifford shops for sports kit.......................... **Page 4**
Spice for girls: Oriental inspiration for the wardrobe.............. **Page 5**

Vision

Full seven-day Radio & TV guide
☐ **Plus CAR 97: Boy racers**...................... **Page 3**
Wild Volvo .... **Page 10**
10 15: Earth calls ... **Page 6**
Jodie Foster.......... **Page 3**

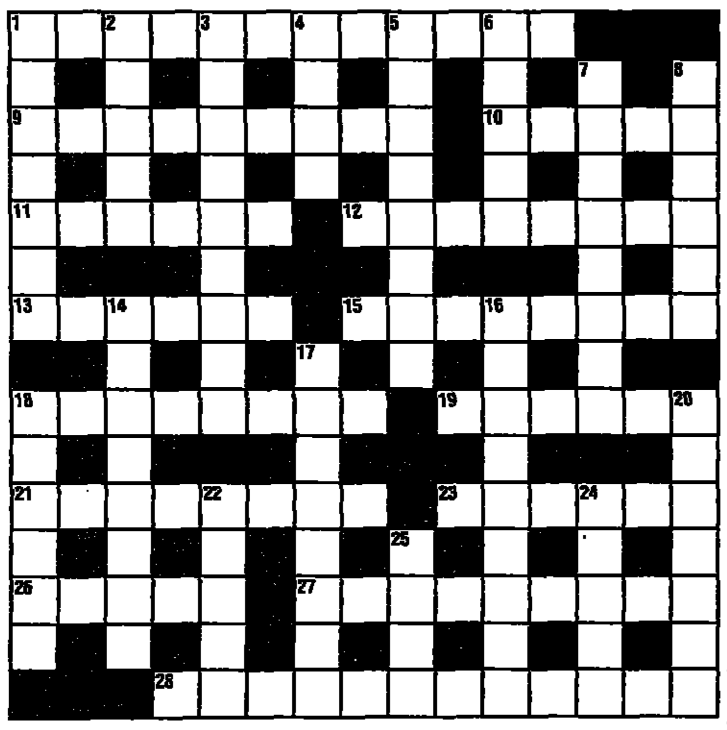
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,590

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

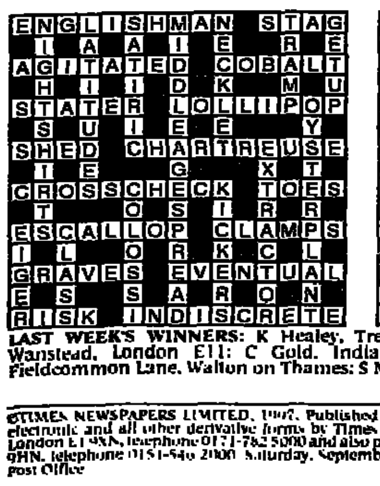
....



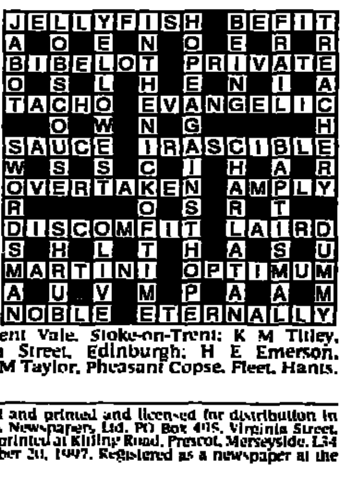
ACROSS
1 Conservative involved in urgent diplomacy with one on strike? (6,6).
9 One making case evident before quarrel (9).
10 This furniture sounds pleasant (5).
11 Bit of physics — work given marks of approval, we hear (6).
12 Note a small hook (8).
13 Listen to politician dropping aitches, a supposed irritant for the listener (6).
15 Motorway dash that could show many to be zany (8).
18 Second version of book produces offence (8).
19 Father has one purpose — to be a chum (6).
21 Bend combined with hill that took its toll on the road (8).
23 Indirect way to purchase, it's said, exam success (6).
26 Not all wassailers can be very musical (5).
27 Bad behaviour from union, discourteous outside mine (9).
28 Let the blow be otherwise! (5,3,4).

DOWN
1 Regret having lost central part of profound knowledge (7).
2 Cook rubbish containing poisonous element (5).
3 What the actor must do to prepare as a soldier (9).
4 A journey that doesn't end gets boring (4).
5 A couple of females in the way creating barrier for sailor (8).
6 Where players act together in attack (5).
7 The sole lady who's liable to breach the peace? (8).
8 Group rendering "Let it be" without loved one who's gone (6).
14 Humanitarian organisation a standard feature in England (3,5).
16 Political policy intended to reduce phone bills? (5,4).
17 Bird making bird sound interrupted by excited cat, OK? (8).
18 Governor was in session followed by informal dialogue (6).
20 Analyse school — primarily a hellish place (7).
22 Six in the morning, or possibly five or seven (5).
24 Delight, early in the day, to take exercise (5).
25 It's very dry, nevertheless, around river (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,584



Solution to Puzzle No 20,589



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: K Healey, Trent Vale, Stoke-on-Trent; K M Titley, Wanstead, London E11; C Gold, India Street, Edinburgh; H E Emerson, Fieldcommon Lane, Walton on Thames; S M Taylor, Pheasant Copse, Fleet, Hants.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.43 am	Sun sets: 7.04 pm
Moon sets 11.17 am	Moon rises 9.20 pm

Last quarter September 23

London 7.04 pm to 6.45 am
Bristol 7.13 pm to 6.55 am
Edinburgh 7.17 pm to 6.56 am
Manchester 7.15 pm to 6.53 am
Penzance 7.25 pm to 7.07 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.45 am	Sun sets: 7.01 pm
Moon sets 12.28 pm	Moon rises 10.00 pm

Last quarter September 23

London 7.01 pm to 6.47 am
Bristol 7.11 pm to 6.56 am
Edinburgh 7.15 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester 7.10 pm to 6.55 am
Penzance 7.23 pm to 7.08 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	04 56	7.6	17 10	7.7
Aberdeen	04 12	4.7	16.45	4.4
Avonmouth	10 24	14.0	22 47	13.8
Belfast	01 52	3.8	14 20	3.5
Cardiff	10.10	12.9	22 33	12.8
Devonport	09 00	5.7	21 22	5.7
Dover	01 54	6.9	14 12	7.0
Dublin (N Wall)	02 22	4.6	14 53	4.3
Falmouth	08 31	5.5	20 53	5.5
Greenock	03 35	3.9	15 54	3.7
Harwich	02 51	4.4	15 05	4.4
Holyhead	01 07	6.1	13 33	5.7
Hull (Albert D)	09 15	9.4	21 45	8.9
Ilfracombe	09 09	9.7	21 33	9.6
King's Lynn	09 23	7.5	21 56	6.8
Leith	05 35	6.1	18 03	5.8
Liverpool	02 06	10.2	14 28	9.7
Lowestoft	00 21	2.6	12 28	2.8
Margate	03 09	4.9	15 16	5.0
Milford Haven	09 24	7.3	21 46	7.2
Newquay	08 16	7.3	20 39	7.2
Oban	08 39	4.1	21.11	4.1
Penzance	07 44	5.7	20.06	5.7
Portland	10 07	2.2	22 24	2.2
Portsmouth	02 06	4.9	14 35	4.9
Shoreham	02 09	6.6	14.32	6.6
Southampton	01 36	4.9	14 03	4.8
Swansea	09 28	10.1	21 50	10.1
Tees	06 37	5.8	19 09	5.5
Walton-on-N	02 42	4.5	14 57	4.6

All times BST Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, Channel Islands, 29C (84F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 09C (48F); highest rainfall: Tenby, Pembrokeshire, 1.67in; highest sunshine: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 11.5hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** southern and eastern England will soon brighten, with sunny breaks appearing. Wales will have a little rain, mostly in the north. This will die out this afternoon but any sunshine will be limited. Northern Ireland and northwest England will see some showers, finally clearing towards evening. Northeast England will cloud over for a time but should remain dry. Scotland will start the day dry, with a ground frost and patches of fog away from the coast. However, cloud will spread northwards, bringing rain to western parts this afternoon

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Channel Isles:** cloud breaking, spells of sunshine. A moderate easterly breeze. Max 20C (68F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, S Wales:** spots of rain, becoming brighter. A moderate southeasterly breeze. Max 20C (68F)

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland:** cloudy with light rain by noon, becoming dry and bright. A light to moderate southeast wind. Max 18C (64F)

☐ **Central N, NE England:** cloudy but mostly dry, spots of rain in the west. Sunny spells this afternoon. A light southeast wind. Max 17C (63F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** cold at first with patchy fog. Cloudy for a time but staying dry. A light south to southwest wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland:** cold at first, becoming cloudy with spots of rain. A moderate southeast wind. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** spells of sunshine. A moderate to fresh southwest wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Outlook:** becoming dry in most places for the next two or three days with sunny spells but the nights will be chilly with fog patches.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

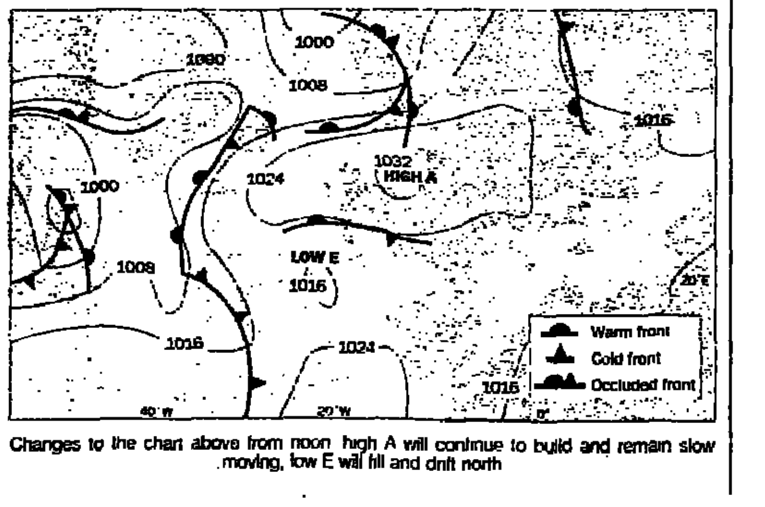
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.4	-	13	55	s
Anglesey	0.9	-	16	61	c
Aspatria	9.2	-	16	61	s
Aviemore	6.5	0.06	12	54	s
Belfast	10.3	-	15	59	s
Birmingham	-	0.63	13	55	r
Bognor R	2.5	0.01	21	70	r
Bournem'th	0.7	0.12	19	66	r
Bristol	0.4	0.29	16	61	r
Buxton	-	0.03	10	50	du
Cardiff		0.42	16	61	r
Clacton	2.3	0.10	16	61	c
Cleethorpes	-	-	14	57	du
Colwyn Bay	-	0.01	13	55	c
Cromer	0.3	0.02	15	59	du
Dunbar	8.1	-	12	54	s
Eastbourne	2.0	0.01	19	66	s
Edinburgh	6.5	-	13	56	sT
Eskdalemuir	8.2	-	13	56	
Exmouth	0.9	0.45	17	63	r
Falmouth	-	0.84	16	61	r
Fishguard	-	0.90	16	61	du
Folkestone	2.2	0.04	18	64	c
Glasgow	9.7	-	14	57	s
Guernsey	6.7	-	25	77	s
Hastings	1.6	0.01	17	63	r
Hayling I.	2.4	0.02	21	70	sh
Herne Bay	0.1	0.02	18	64	du
Hove	X	-	20	68	c
Hunstanton	-	0.11	14	57	du
Isle-of-man	0.1	0.01	13	55	du
Isle-of-wight	1.0	0.01	19	66	r
Jersey	8.1	-	29	84	s
Kinloss	4.3	0.05	13	55	b
Leeds	-	-	13	55	c
Lerwick	3.3	-	9	48	c
Leuchars	8.6	0.01	13	55	s
Littlehmptn	2.6	0.01	21	70	r
London	0.2	0.01	17	63	c
Lowestoft	1.3	0.02	17	63	c
Manchester	-	0.01	13	55	c
Margate	0.4	-	17	63	du
Minehead	1.2	0.22	16	61	r
Morecambe	-	-	14	57	du
Newcastle	8.0	-	15	59	s
Newquay	1.0	0.58	19	66	c
Norwich	0.5	0.07	16	61	du
Oxford	-	0.27	15	59	r
Penzance	X	0.51	17	63	d
Poole	1.5	0.23	20	68	r
Prestatyn	X	0.01	14	57	du
Ross-o-wye	-	0.35	16	61	r
Salcombe	X				
Saunton Snd	-	0.30	19	66	du
Scarboro'	5.5	-	15	59	s
Shrewsbury	-	0.22	12	54	r
Skegness	X				
Southend	0.9	0.07	19	66	c
Southport	-	-	13	55	b
Southsea	4.4	0.05	21	70	r
Stornoway	11.5	-	12	54	s
Swanage	0.1	0.02	18	64	r
Teignmouth	1.1	0.59	17	63	r
Tenby		1.67	16	61	r
Tiree	11.3	-	14	57	s
Torquay	2.2	0.35	20	68	du
Tynemouth	-	-	12	54	s
West-s-mare	0.4	0.27	17	63	r
Weymouth	-	0.35	17	63	r

ABROAD

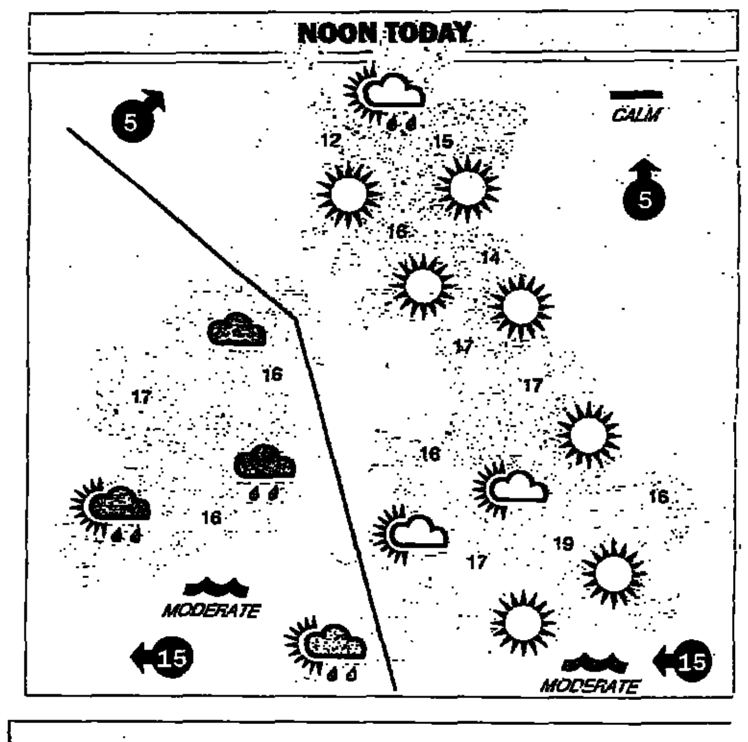
Ajaccio	27	81	s	Corfu	26	79	f	Madrid	25	77	s	Riyadh	39	102	s
Akrotiri	27	81	s	C'phagn	15	59	f	Majorca	29	84	f	Rome	27	81	s
Alex'dria	27	81	c	Dublin	14	57	s	Malaga	26	79	s	S Fr'isco	19	66	s
Algiers	29	84	s	Dubrovnik	24	75	s	Malta	25	77	f	S Paulo	18	64	c
Amst'dm	19	66	s	Faro	28	82	s	Melb'rne	14	57	s	Salzburg	23	73	s
Athens	26	79	s	Florence	27	81	s	Mexico C	14	57	s	Santiago	17	63	f
B Aires	15	59	s	Frankfurt	23	73	s	Miami	30	86	s	Seoul	23	73	f
Bahrain	33	91	s	Funchal	25	77	f	Milan	26	79	s	Sing'por	32	90	c
Bangkok	27	81	f	Geneva	21	70	s	Montreal	21	70	s	St'kholm	12	54	f
Barbados	29	84	c	Gibraltar	25	77	f	Moscow	17	63	f	Strasb'rg	25	77	s
Barcelona	24	75	s	Helsinki	8	46	f	Munich	23	73	s	Sydney	16	61	c
Beirut	28	82	f	Hong K	28	82	c	N Delhi	33	91	s	Tangier	29	84	s
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbrck	22	72	s	N York	24	75	s	Tel Aviv	29	84	f
Berlin	15	59	f	Istanbul	19	66	f	Nairobi	26	79	f	Tenerife	27	81	s
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	36	97	s	Naples	28	82	s	Tokyo	26	79	r
Biarritz	29	84	s	Jo'burg	18	64	r	Nice	25	77	s	Toronto	25	77	s
Borde'x	27	81	s	Karachi	X	X	X	Oslo	13	55	f	Tunis	26	79	f
Brussels	24	75	s	L Angels	26	79	s	Paris	28	82	s	Valencia	23	73	f
Budapst	22	72	s	L Palmas	25	77	s	Peking	24	75	s	Vanc'ver	15	59	s
Cairo	31	88	s	Le Tquet	22	72	s	Perth	21	70	f	Venice	23	73	s
Cape Tn	27	81	s	Lisbon	29	84	s	Prague	22	72	f	Vienna	21	70	s
Ch'church	11	52	X	Locarno	22	72	s	Reykjavik	5	41	s	Warsaw	19	66	f
Chicago	28	82	s	Luxembg	23	73	s	Rhodes	24	75	s	Wel'ngton	12	54	X
Cologne	25	77	f	Luxor	36	97	s	Rio de J	23	73	f	Zurich	21	70	s

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: high A will continue to build and remain slow moving, low E will fill and drift north

NOON TODAY



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1997

ROBIN MAYES

Richard Handover, who joined the company in 1965 and is seen by some as died-in-the-wool WH Smith man, believes the chain can be revived

WH Smith picks company veteran as chief executive

By Paul Durman

WH SMITH yesterday appointed a company veteran of 32-years' standing as its new chief executive, disappointing many in the City who had hoped the underperforming retailer would bring in some fresh blood to turn the group around.

Richard Handover, 51, succeeds Bill Cockburn, who wiped £100 million off Smith's stock market value in June when he walked out in favour of a senior job with British Telecom. Mr Handover is currently managing director of Smith's news distribution business, but he has worked in many parts of the group since joining in 1965.

Smith's critics believe a newcomer would have found it easier to take the tough decisions they believe are necessary to improve performance, particularly at the main high street chain. Some observers favour a break-up of the group, which also includes the Waterstone's book shops and the Virgin Our Price music chain. Smith's shares slipped 6½p to 368p.

A leading shareholder said: "It's a bit disappointing. We are wondering whether Cockburn found it all a bit too difficult and now [the board] find it a bit too difficult and they put this guy in. It would be very unfair for me to say he's not up to it, but the suspicion is that he's not."

One analyst said: "The biggest problem is he's a died-in-the-wool WH Smith man. This inward looking culture is partly what's wrong with Smith. This group needs to change."

However, one large shareholder who had met Mr Handover was impressed: "He's a retailer. That's what they need. We felt he looked as if he might just do it."

Jeremy Hardie, Smith's chairman, said the company had not wanted a chief executive who would embark on another wide-ranging review to consider whether it should sell any of its businesses. He added: "I would not have appointed somebody who from the start said: 'I am going to come in and turn the whole thing upside down'." He did not intend to shackle the chief executive, because it was his job to decide what should happen.

Mr Hardie said the defeated internal candidates for the top job — Alan Giles of Waterstone's and John Hancock of Smith's US business, and also Keith Hamill, finance director — were all committed to working with Mr Handover.

Mr Handover said his role would be to support Beverley Hodson, who has recently taken over as managing director of WH Smith Retail. The group believes the chain can be revived by applying basic retail skills.

Smith would not disclose how much Mr Handover will earn. Mr Cockburn was paid £425,000.

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Airtours directors poached by rival

By Marianne Curphey

INSPIRATIONS, the travel company bought for £42 million by Carlson, the US travel group, in July, has poached two key executives from Airtours, its tour operator rival, with packages thought to be worth £250,000 a year each.

The move sent Airtours shares down a further 4p to £10.50 yesterday, after a 63p plunge on Thursday as rumours of the resignations swept the stock market.

Analysts see Carlson's success in headhunting the two — regarded as among the shrewdest negotiators in the industry — as a blow to Airtours. The resignations of Steve Endacott, the Airtours sales director, and Paul Evans, purchasing director, to become joint managing directors of the Inspirations tour operation has prompted a radical shake-up of Airtours executives. Peter Rothwell, managing director of Airtours Holidays, and Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, have been made executive directors of UK Leisure Group. Mr Bennett becomes chairman of Airtours and three new internal appointments have been made to the board.

The generous terms on offer from Inspirations indicate Carlson's determination to make its acquisition a dominant force in the UK holiday market. The two men joining it are seen as eventual possible successors to Mike Batt as head of Carlson Leisure Group in the UK.

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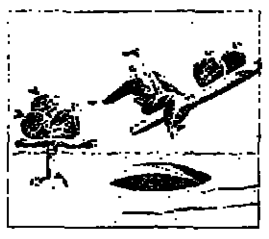

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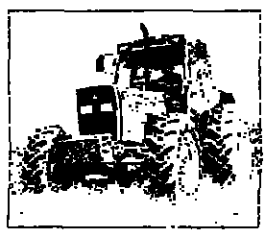

SAVINGS

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The supermarkets gain ground in the savings war

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	5023.8	(-22.4)
Yield	3.29%	
FTSE All share	2362.31	(-7.86)
Nikkei	18058.21	(+128.12)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7889.52	(-33.20)*
S&P Composite	947.18	(-0.11)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 7/16%*	(5 9/16%)
Long Bond	99 5/16*	(99 5/16)
Yield	6.41%*	(6.40%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	7 7/32%	(7 7/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	117 7/16	(117 25/32)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6110*	(1.6115)
London:		
$	1.6092	(1.6161)
DM	2.8504	(2.8618)
FFr	9.5752	(9.6124)
SFr	2.3454	(2.3591)
Yen	196.00	(197.31)
£ Index	100.2	(100.6)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.7725*	(1.7795)
FFr	5.9510*	(5.9510)
SFr	1.4591*	(1.4660)
Yen	121.95*	(121.95)
$ Index	105.7	(105.7)
Tokyo close Yen 121.86		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	$18.55	($18.40)
GOLD		
London close	$322.45	($320.85)

* denotes midday trading price

Laura Ashley puts consultant in job

By Jason Nissé

ANN IVERSON, the embattled chief executive of Laura Ashley, has turned to a management consultant with links to Guinness during the Ernest Saunders era to help to sort out production problems at the troubled clothes and furnishings retailer.

David Hoare — whose past roles have included running Cope Allman, the packaging group bought from Michael Ashcroft's ADT, and helping to restructure National Home Loans — is to be Laura Ashley's chief operating officer. He will be paid a basic salary of about £250,000, with a generous share option package that he will not be able to redeem for at least three years.

Ms Iverson said that Mr Hoare would sort out the company's production problems, which led to it predicting that it will make no profit this year after recording a £16 million surplus in 1996.

Ms Iverson said: "The problems we have are with the supply chain, with processes needing to communicate with each other on day-to-day business, with forecasting and finance." Mr Hoare's appointment would allow her to concentrate on the retailing side of Laura Ashley, she said.

Mr Hoare will remain a partner in Talisman Management, the business he set up with Rik Grogan when the duo left Bain & Co, the management consultancy, in 1987. At Bain, they advised Guinness during its controversial bid for Distillers. Olivier Roux, then Guinness's finance director, is a consultant at Talisman.

RJB starts to shed contract workers

RJB MINING, which faces increasing industrial unrest over redundancy terms and over its failure to secure new contracts with the electricity generators, has begun to shed contract workers (Christine Buckley writes).

RJB is reducing its contractors — who total about 2,000 — and filling their roles with its miners, some of them from pits it has shut. Unions fear that the shift of employees into roles filled by by contract workers will increase as RJB tries to cut its overall workforce.

RJB said: "We are reducing dependency on contract workers in as many areas as possible. But in some cases we have also taken contract workers on to the staff." RJB has cut its contract workers by more than 1,000 over the past two years.

Arnault hints at pact on Guinness

By Dominic Walsh

BERNARD ARNAULT, the chairman of LVMH, the French luxury goods group, gave a clear signal yesterday that he is willing to compromise on his objections to the proposed merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan.

M Arnault, who is the biggest shareholder in both the British companies, will next month put forward fresh proposals aimed at securing the inclusion of LVMH's Moët Hennessy drinks business in the British companies' merger. In July, he proposed that Moët Hennessy be merged with the drinks divisions of Guinness and GrandMet in a separately quoted company, with Guinness Brewing and GrandMet's Pillsbury and Burger King businesses spun off.

A spokesman for M Arnault said that, after discussions with analysts and fund managers, he was now willing to accept less than the 35 per cent of the enlarged drinks company that he had demanded. "He is prepared not to be a controlling shareholder," said the spokesman, citing 25 to 30 per cent as a "likely range".

This was seen as a softening of M Arnault's stance, but his continued call for the three-way drinks company to be demerged is unlikely to find favour with Guinness and GrandMet.

GMG Brands, as the merged company is to be known, said: "If there is sensible deal to be done, then GMG will do that deal. But it has to be based on fair value for all shareholders."

Tempus, page 32

Hampel report 'needs changes'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

A LEADING institutional shareholder yesterday told Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil Initial and a member of the Hampel Committee on corporate governance, that there needs to be fundamental changes to the draft Hampel report before a final report is published later this year.

Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive of Hermes, the Post Office and telecommunications fund manager, said leading institutions would insist on three independent directors on large and most small company boards, with the independence of directors judged by outsiders, rather, than as Hampel suggested, a company's board.

Secondly, institutional investors had concerns about the structure of remuneration committees, and about the role of non-executive directors. He and others specifically rejected Hampel's suggestion that full boards should approve remuneration committee's recommendations on pay, since it would mean executives approving their own pay packages.

Mr Ross Goobey was speaking at the conference on the Hampel committee organised by Pirc, the shareholder activist group.

Anne Simpson, Pirc joint managing director, went further when questioned by business leaders about whether the Hampel report was too lax, whether it was a "fat cat's charter" and whether the problems over the way companies were run required more than voluntary codes.

She told the conference: "I think on some issues there is a case for the law to change", including the duties of directors and the powers of shareholders covered in the Companies Act.

Ms Simpson said that a long-awaited report from the Department of Trade and Industry on companies' annual meetings would require changes to the law if it proposed any material alterations in the way AGMs were run.

Tony Neary on theft charges

By Jon Ashworth

TONY NEARY, the former British Lion rugby star and co-founder of Cotton Traders, the mail order leisurewear group, has been arrested and charged with theft and fraud involving £776,500.

Mr Neary, 48, most recently registered at an address in Alderley Edge, Cheshire, was arrested at Manchester Airport last month. He appeared before Liverpool magistrates on 12 counts of theft and two counts of fraud. He is due to appear in court again later this month.

Merseyside police interviewed Mr Neary under caution in February 1995. Investigations centred on allegations that Mr Neary, a lawyer, had invested £500,000 of trust fund money in property development companies that later collapsed.

The former England flanker was company secretary of Cotton Traders, which he co-founded ten years ago. Mr Neary resigned as a director of Cotton Traders in August 1993. There is no suggestion that the company is implicated in the circumstances leading up to his arrest.

The alleged fraud involves the beneficiaries of trusts associated with the late John Gorna, a Manchester lawyer. Mr Neary was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Neary: founded Traders

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BA faces inquiry on sales practice

By Charles Bremner and Dominic Walsh

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to face questioning by the European Commission over claims that its sales practices amount to an abuse of its dominant position. If found guilty, it could face a fine of up to 10 per cent of its turnover.

BA, already embroiled with Brussels over its proposed alliance with American Airlines, stands accused of luring international passengers into flying exclusively with BA and of paying travel agents higher commission depending on levels of business generated.

The Commission, alerted to the practices by Virgin, BA's rival, said the discounts appeared to breach article 86 of the Treaty of Rome banning abuse of a dominant position of a market. It issued a statement of objections in January and now expects to convene a hearing at the end of next month.

However, a spokesman for Karel van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said yesterday that the inquiry was far from complete and a decision was not likely before the end of the year. "It is ludicrous to jump to conclusions and claim that the Commission is about to impose fines in this case," he said.

BA denies any wrongdoing, arguing that its sales techniques are common in the industry. Virgin said the practices were widespread but added: "The activities have to be judged in the context of BA's position in the market."

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Andrew Garety, Liberty finance director, left, with Denis Cassidy and Ian Thomson, who saw a rise in pre-tax profits

World Bank head tells Brown to write off debt

From Janet Bush in Hong Kong

JAMES WOLFENSOHN, the President of the World Bank, yesterday called on Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to write off up to £3.8 billion of debts owed to Britain by Third World countries.

Mr Wolfensohn has called on the Chancellor to back his own call by writing off the debts in support of the move to rekindle international support for the bank's debt relief initiative.

Mr Wolfensohn was responding to Mr Brown's call on Commonwealth finance ministers in Mauritius earlier in the week to ensure that at least three-quarters of those countries currently being considered for debt relief should have firm agreements negotiated by the millennium. Mr Brown dubbed his effort the Mauritius Mandate.

"If Gordon Brown wants to put up some cash, that would be very welcome," Mr Wolfensohn told a large audience in Hong Kong for the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Britain is owed a total of about £3.8 billion by countries likely to be eligible at some stage under the highly indebted countries initiative (HIPC), which has become the main vehicle for debt relief. The vast majority of this money is owed to the Export Credit Guarantee Department.

The World Bank president displayed real frustration yesterday with growing criticism of HIPC, which has yet to provide relief to a single country. The bank has pledged £1 billion, but there has been foot-dragging by the IMF and implacable opposition to the idea from Germany, Japan and Italy.

Mr Wolfensohn said: "This is a moral issue and a development issue but it is also an issue of money. In the end, it comes down to you, the voters and taxpayers in our member countries. Are you prepared to pay?"

The debt issue will be on the table for discussion both at today's meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised countries and tomorrow's meeting of the IMF's powerful interim committee.

The initiative has been slated for not having yet provided relief to a single country — Uganda is planned to be the first to benefit.

Japanese tourists lose yen for Liberty

By Dominic Walsh

THE flocks of Japanese tourists who descend on Liberty, the Regent Street store, when they visit London are waning as a result of the weakness of the yen.

In sales terms, the Japanese are second in the pecking order behind domestic customers, and the company admitted the currency factor was having "a depressive effect" at both its central London store and its four kiosks at Heathrow airport.

Denis Cassidy, chairman, said that the 10 per cent rise in interim turnover from current operations, to £27.3 million, "might have been about 14 per cent if it weren't for the weakness of the yen and the strength of sterling against other currencies".

Group pre-tax profits at Liberty, which last year closed its 21 provincial stores, rose almost a third to £863,000 in the six months to August 2, and the interim dividend, which went unpaid last year, has been restored at a level of 0.8p, payable on November 13. A trading loss of £137,000 was reported as a result of an extra £1.2 million investment in marketing, design and product development.

Sales at the flagship store, which is in the middle of a £40 million revamp, were up 9.5 per cent, although profits were just 3.5 per cent better because of the extra Sunday opening costs. Mr Cassidy, who was brought in two years ago to revive Liberty's fortunes, said the restructuring of the group was almost complete.

Ian Thomson, managing director, said Liberty would be opening an outlet at the new Windsor Station retail development before Christmas, and continued to seek opportunities for expansion overseas.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

WPP media-buying operations to merge

OGILVY & MATHER and J Walter Thompson, the two world advertising divisions of WPP, plan to merge their British media-buying operations in a move that is expected to be announced formally on Monday. Shares in WPP, the media agency group, rose 1p to 286p. The move, long expected in media circles, will give WPP greater impact in the media buying sector, which is consolidating and placing greater emphasis on the need for buying power. In 1996 the two media-buying operations of WPP together earned fees of £373 million.

WPP faces competition from specialist media buying companies such as CIA and Aegis. They are preferred by multinational clients to traditional advertising agencies when it comes to media buying. WPP owns a stake of more than 12 per cent in CIA and is expected at some point to make a bid for the rest. Any offer would probably have to be agreed by the CIA board, however, because staff and directors of CIA own a substantial minority stake.

ENIC in Greek talks

ENIC, the investment trust that owns 25 per cent of Glasgow Rangers, is in talks to take a controlling stake in AEK Athens, the Greek club that put Rangers out of the Champions League two years ago. The trust is talking to Michalis Trohanas, whose company, SOE, owns 79 per cent of AEK and is attempting to sell the stake for about £5.5 million. ENIC recently purchased a 30 per cent stake in Vicenza, last year's Italian cup winner, and hopes to float the club on the Milan stock exchange.

Broken Hill disappoints

SHARES in Broken Hill, Australia's biggest listed company, plunged to a three-year low after it reported weaker than expected earnings. The steel, mining and oil group reported a first-quarter net profit of A$357 million (£158 million). A one-off gain from the sale of an investment boosted the bottom line by A$73 million. Before the abnormal gain, BHP's earnings for the three months to August 31 were A$284 million, 1 per cent lower than last year.

Eurocamp confident

EUROCAMP, the leisure facilities group, saw a solid advance this year and has forecast further progress for 1998, sending its shares up 4p to 238½p. In a trading statement, Eurocamp said: "We are able to confirm the indications given earlier of a much improved performance from our camping businesses in 1997. Whilst overall booking volumes have been in line with last year, we have been successful in meeting our prime objective, which was to restore profit margins to more acceptable levels."

Break-up plan for BSC

DAVID JAMES, the company doctor brought in to sort out the ailing British Shoe Corporation for Sears, has proposed breaking up the business and selling it off in parts. The move comes after attempts by JP Morgan, the merchant bank, to sell the entire business for Sears failed to secure a financially acceptable bid. The plans will be presented with the Sears half-year figures on Thursday and are expected to lead to a write-off of up to £200 million.

Warning hits Prism

SHARES in Prism Leisure fell from 167½p to 82½p after the computer games group said its full-year results would be below expectations and that Robert Skelton, the finance director, would leave at the end of the year. His departure was said to be unconnected to the statement. Prism blamed the shortfall on the strong pound, the failure to source the same quality products as in previous years, and a disappointing performance by new eight-pack audio products.

Hotels group expands

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND HOTELS, has agreed to buy two four-star hotels in the North of England from Wiggins Group for £12.8 million cash. The company is to place 4,871,456 new ordinary shares with institutional investors at 140p a share to raise about £6.57 million, net of expenses. Scottish Highland said the remaining £6.6 million will be funded by a newly agreed term facility with Bank of Scotland of £5 million and by £1.6 million from existing bank facilities.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.34	2.16
Austria Sch	21.08	19.42
Belgium Fr	62.08	57.12
Canada $	2.362	2.174
Cyprus Cyp£	0.887	0.815
Denmark Kr	11.45	10.56
Finland Mkk	9.07	8.32
France Fr	10.08	9.28
Germany Dm	3.02	2.78
Greece Dr	477	438
Hong Kong $	13.29	12.09
Iceland	128	108
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.05
Israel Shk	5.95	5.30
Italy Lira	2959	2722
Japan Yen	211.03	193.50
Malta	0.665	0.608
Netherlds Gld	3.404	3.109
New Zealand $	2.70	2.46
Norway Kr	12.23	11.29
Portugal Esc	302.53	280.50
S Africa Rd	8.25	7.29
Spain Pta	252.29	233.50
Sweden Kr	13.07	11.97
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.28
Turkey Lira	285379	265501
USA $	1.716	1.573

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Spending on credit cards slows rapidly

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

CREDIT card spending slowed rapidly in August, providing further evidence that the windfall effect may be unwinding.

Figures produced by the Credit Card Research Group showed the annual growth for all credit and debit card spending at about 14 per cent, compared with a quarterly average of 18 per cent.

Elizabeth Phillips, director of the Credit Card Research Group, said: "Sluggish August card expenditure figures mirror the picture painted by many retailers of slow sales growth, possibly reflecting the declining impact of windfall payments."

Expenditure growth was strongest in the food and drink sector, which attracts an increasing proportion of credit card spending, and in the household sector. But spending slowed markedly in the mixed business sector which includes department stores and clothing retailers.

The CCRG said the figures could also have been affected by holiday spending abroad.

Go-Ahead is critical of rises in costs

GO-AHEAD GROUP, the bus company, yesterday said that Government-imposed cost increases would hinder operators' ability to renew bus fleets (Carl Mortished writes).

Martin Ballinger, managing director, said that fuel tax rises, abolition of profit-related pay and the effect of tax increases on pension funds would harm his group's efforts to achieve profit targets. Go-Ahead is to spend £32 million in the current year on fleet renewal, he said.

Pre-tax profit for the year to June 28 rose 81 per cent, to £21.5 million. Operating margins were 12.7 (10.5) per cent. The dividend is 8p, up 44 per cent.

Tempus, page 32

Jardine fears fall in underlying profits

By Eric Reguly

JARDINE MATHESON, the British trading "hong" that owns Hongkong Land, yesterday gave warning that reduced merchant banking profits and economic problems in some Asian countries will damage underlying profits this year.

The company said: "While the prospects for Greater China remain encouraging, other Asia economies are experiencing mixed fortunes. Against this backdrop, we expect the full year's profits, excluding non-recurring times, broadly to reflect the trend in the first half."

In the half year to June 30, Jardine's operating profits fell by 6 per cent to US$142.5 million (£89 million) on a 3 per cent rise in turnover to $5.74 billion.

Pre-tax profits rose by almost 6 per cent to $466.1 million. The figures included a one-off gain of $130 million on the sale of Jardine's life insurance business. The interim dividend remains 7.8 cents.

Jardine said that Hongkong Land's Mandarin Oriental hotel had made a good start to the year, but the company expects a decline in the second half in the wake of the handover by Britain of Hong Kong to China in July.

NEWSQUEST

Stock Market Flotation

Newsquest, one of the UK's largest regional newspaper groups, specialising in the delivery of local information, is seeking a listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Newsquest publishes 173* titles, of which 61* are paid-for daily and weekly newspapers, and is the largest publisher of free newspapers in the UK.

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*As at 30 June 1997 and excluding the Wessex operations, the proposed disposal of which has been announced.

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NewRo picks Canary

By Martin Waller

THE new pan-regulatory body for financial services has chosen a building on Canary Wharf for its headquarters. The nine existing regulators that make up the new body, which currently works under the title NewRo, will move to 25 The North Colonnade by the end of next year.

The decision is a blow for the Corporation of London, which has been trying to keep the regulators within the City boundaries. But a spokeswoman for NewRo said the Canary Wharf site "is the only property that actually met our total requirements".

These were to house 2,000 people in all; to be ready as soon as possible; to be flexible internally; and to be cost-effective.

Judith Mayhew, the chairman of the corporation's policy and resources committee, admitted disappointment at the NewRo decision but said the corporation had been concentrating on keeping the markets and the main traders and institutions within the Square Mile.

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CHANGING TIMES

Stockbrokers – is it time to trade-in yours?

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FT FINANCIAL TIMES Finance

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[illegible]

A WORKING WEEK FOR: CHARLES GOODHART

The economist who inhabits two worlds

Alasdair Murray meets the academic from LSE who uses the numbers game even when it comes to sheep farming

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

IT IS a long way from the grandeur of the Bank of England's Threadneedle Street headquarters to a cramped office in a rather run-down outbuilding at the London School of Economics. But Charles Goodhart, Norman Sosnow Professor of Banking and Finance at the LSE and external member of the monetary policy committee, comfortably inhabits the two worlds.

The son of an academic, Professor Goodhart was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge before spending 17 years in a variety of roles at the Bank of England. Since moving back full-time into academia in 1985, his academic work has not surprisingly centred on issues such as monetary policy and regulation. Aptly enough, his most famous contribution to economics points to the problems inherent in trying to use imperfect data to set interest rate policy.

"Goodhart's Law" states that if policymakers rely purely on one set of monetary statistics the data is likely to become unreliable over time — a salient reminder of some of the absurd decisions that resulted from the obsessive concentration on M3 figures during the 1980s. The new monetary policy framework has engendered a good deal of interest. But with no "Ken and Eddie"-style policy disagreements yet emerging among committee members — all the votes have been unanimous and the minutes show no dissent — controversy has been kept to a minimum. Professor Goodhart believes that the committee's common approach to interest rate decisions ensures coherence in discussions.

"We speak a common language although there are obviously nuances of views and we hold tough debates," he says. "But the differences are never likely to cover more than a quarter or half-point move in interest rates. You are into the realm of psychology with the ultimate decision as much based on the perceived impact on the markets."

Unlike the Ken and Eddie show, where politics was never far from the substance of the meetings, the new monetary framework is a highly technical affair. The most important week is the first full week of each month, when a lull in the release of economic data provides a suitable window for the committee to meet. Meetings begin on the previous Friday when the Bank staff present a review of the available data and the committee hears from the Bank's regional and sectoral agenda.

"The presentation is entirely factual and gives us a chance to listen," Professor Goodhart explains. Committee members are then given a chance to mull over the data before assembling again the following Wednesday. The second meeting is used to set the agenda and background context for the decision "but we consciously try to avoid policy decisions", he says. The committee then returns home in purdah overnight before making an early start to the final meeting on Thursday. The decision has to be taken by 11am to give the Bank time to prepare a release for the markets at midday.

Some supporters of independence have been disappointed that the committee has not drawn on a wider range of expertise. In particular, there are no obvious representatives from business and industry, although DeAnne Julius was chief economist at British Airways before she joined the committee this month. There is a feeling that even the outside members, supposedly there to bolster the independence of the committee, resemble too much the Bank's own appointees.

Professor Goodhart insists that the committee's reliance on technically trained economists is inevitable given the nature of the job.

"The main difficulty with setting interest rate policy is that it has very long lags," he explains. "You are looking one to two years ahead and therefore need to be able to forecast. If there wasn't this time lag, life would be very easy but forecasting is very much of the essence."

It is this same emphasis on the technical skills needed to make interest rate decisions that leads Professor Goodhart to wholeheartedly support central bank independence. "It is very difficult for politicians to react to forecasts rather than events. It is much easier for a central bank," he says.

> ❛ It is difficult for politicians to react to forecasts and not events ❜

There was no committee meeting last week, but Professor Goodhart still aims to spend about two days at the Bank. "I need to catch up on correspondence and review the reading material," he says. As the new system develops, the long-term aim is for all the outside members to become involved with Bank research. Mervyn King, who will shortly step up to become Deputy Governor, has already made it clear that he would welcome the non-Bank expertise on offer from Professor Goodhart, Willem Buiter and DeAnne Julius.

Outside members are also expected to become involved in the Bank's quarterly inflation report — the Bank's own detailed assessment of the economic outlook. Professor Goodhart is clear that the publication has become the official report of the MPC and the external committee members need to discuss and question its assumptions.

For the rest of the week, Professor Goodhart is fulfilling his "half-time" commitments to the London School of Economics. "But it feels like full time by the time you have made room for covering colleague's lectures and classes."

His sudden elevation to the monetary policy committee in May rather dashed any hopes of taking time off in the summer as he set about trying to finish many, already promised papers and lectures. But, despite the hefty time commitments to the Bank, he is determined to press on with his own research and sees no contradiction between his official role and the need to maintain academic independence.

DES JENSON

Charles Goodhart sees no contradiction between his official role at the Bank of England and the need to maintain academic independence at LSE

Professor Goodhart caused something of a stir when just days after his appointment to the MPC he expressed strong scepticism about Gordon Brown's separate plans to set up a super-regulator. His comments would have received only limited interest before his appointment, but in his new position commentators were quick to play up an apparent slap in the face for Mr Brown.

"The monetary policy committee is not involved with financial stability. I intend to continue my outside work and commentate on anything not specifically connected with the MPC."

He is currently working on a paper exploring the credit risks inherent in national bond issues after monetary union, a subject that could again ruffle a few feathers across Europe. But while Professor Goodhart fully understands the heightened media and City interest in the decisions of the MPC he appears a little bemused by the interest in other aspects of his affairs. When arranging this interview he rather self-effacingly questioned whether *The Times* would really be interested in a dull academic rather than some dynamic captain of industry.

In general Professor Goodhart believes the press treatment of the committee has to date been very fair. Committee members are not being dogged by the incessant questioning, designed at drawing some off-the-cuff remark that might just move the market, which is endured by Bundesbank council members for instance. Even so, the Bank sends along a minder to interviews just in case the questioning should stray into sensitive terrain.

Monday
Tuesday
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Friday

Clearly the Bank of England has changed greatly in the 12 years since he left its employ, but Professor Goodhart believes the impact has been greater on the soon-to-be defunct supervision department. Economic technical skills have "improved" and he cites the Bank's "unique" inflation risks model which is included as part of its inflation projection in the quarterly inflation report. But supervision has had to develop an entirely different approach.

"Once upon a time the approach was to find best practices in the City and codify these. But the growth of derivatives has brought huge problems for regulation and made it vital to adopt an economic/mathematical modelling approach to risk."

The demands of two jobs have not left Professor Goodhart much time for his own pursuits. He admits that he has all but retired from playing tennis and his court at Devon is increasingly covered in weeds. But Saturdays are devoted to his wife's Dartmoor sheep farm and "not thinking about economics".

But even in sheep farming, Professor Goodhart delights in the science. "Sheep farming is a numbers game. You need to try to raise around 1.75 lambs for each ewe," he says before launching into a detailed explanation of the intricacies of sheep breeding.

But will the rigours of the lambing season not potentially clash with an important Bank of England interest rate decision? Professor Goodhart checks his diary. "I must mention to my wife that we need to move lambing forward next year, so it doesn't clash with the April monetary meeting," he says.

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Rumbling on

AN UNNOTICED casualty of the Price Waterhouse-Coopers & Lybrand megamerger announced this week is the legal action still dragging on between the administrators of the Maxwell empire and the auditors of the same. They are, respectively, Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, and the case cannot continue in its present form.

"It would look a bit odd," mused a PW spokesman. "People would say, what's to stop them being very generous with each other." Quite. The best option would be to bring in another accountant to pursue the action, which hinges on whether Coopers should or should not have noticed Robert Maxwell's misdeeds — Arthur Andersen, which carries out the same function for the private Maxwell companies, springs to mind. This would be better than making PW give up as administrators. But either way there will be yet more delay as the newcomer is briefed in laborious detail. "Whichever way you cut the cards, there is going to be some disruption," admits PW. And whichever way you cut the cards, this is the case that dragged on for so long that the two parties had actually merged before it could be resolved. Oh clever, fat, happy little lawyers.

Maxwell: legacy continues

☐ *AMERICAN AIRLINES may still be horse-trading with the powers-that-be over the link with British Airways. But an earlier round of bartering has been rather too successful, I learn. A couple of years ago an airline executive did a deal with the Grosvenor House hotel on Park Lane. American would get free rooms, Grosvenor staff business class tickets. A one-way trade ensued, so one-way that the airline now has tens of thousands of pounds worth of rooms waiting to be used up in return for flights taken. It recently stuck three executives into the top suites at the Grosvenor in an attempt to burn off a few thousand.*

Raided

I HEAR of yet another raid on a top-ranking analyst from one of the big houses. Paribas, which has been going through a burst of hiring for its equities side since the business moved to its incredibly posh new headquarters at Marylebone last month, has snaffled Nick Stevenson, pan-European equity strategist, from SBC Warburg, sorry, SBC Warburg Dillon Read, as its poor switchboard operators are now required to parrot. Stevenson, 40, who was top of this year's Extel survey, is described as something of a *bon viveur* and Francophile — he was officially still employed by Warburg until yesterday, but was on holiday at his house at Avignon.

Déjà vu

GORDON BROWN'S grand-sounding Mauritius Mandate, his call for progress towards debt relief for poor countries, is clearly the fruit of thorough new Labour policy brainstorming. Or not. A funny story reaches me from Hong Kong. Just after the election, prominent British lobbyists for debt relief were called in by Treasury officials to brief them on what *they* thought the new Chancellor's policy should be. The campaigners, various charities for example, helpfully went through the main issues.

The same lobbyists were again called in by the Treasury a week before the Chancellor's Mauritius message. This time, they were briefed on *his* policy. You will be familiar with a lot of this, the civil servants sniggered. And indeed they were. They had thought up most of it.

☐ *WE ALL like to think we can predict the markets better than all those overpaid analysts. Balls Bros, the wine bar operator, held a competition to find out. Customers in April and May were asked to to guess the level of the FTSE 100 index at the end of July. Chris Tweed, 31, an IT project manager at Nomura, was almost spot on at 4,906.3 to the actual 4,907.5. Yesterday he picked up his prize, a methusaleh of Louis Roederer champagne, equivalent to eight bottles, engraved with the Stock Exchange coat of arms. With this track record, you might like to know that Tweed's prediction for the end of the year is 5,176.3.*

Bank note

TIME was when banks restricted themselves to keeping tally of your finances and writing the odd sarcastic letter when these went awry. Nowadays they have to court the youth vote. One already gives away fistfuls of pop CDs to prospective customers. Now the Midland is funding an 18-day pop festival in December at Battersea Power Station, at a cost to the bank of just short of £1 million.

The festival will include 24 shows which are expected to attract more than 170,000 people. In a move to limit the association of music festivals with the alternative culture of drink and drugs, one learns, Midland will include performances from a 600-voice gospel group and a children's area. That should do the trick. 600-voice gospel choirs are, as we all know, to drug-pushers as garlic is to vampires.

Trivia buffs will already have recalled that this is Battersea Power Station's second major contribution to pop culture. Some time towards the end of the Pleistocene it featured on the front of a Pink Floyd album.

MARTIN WALLER

The Chancellor has announced that there will be changes to the tax regime of PEPs with effect from 06.04.99. Until this date, PEPs will retain their tax free status. After this date, it may no longer be possible to continue your investment into a PEP. Full details of the Individual Savings Account (ISA) including details for transferring into ISAs have yet to be clarified. You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up - you may not get back as much as you invest. M&G do not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. Source: Office of National Statistics. *Source: Micropal UK Fixed Interest sector. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority). Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited, (regulated by The Personal Investment Authority) - registered address:M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

ICI falls victim to sector's third-quarter weakness

ICI was one of the worst casualties among the top 100 companies, falling 32p to 986p, after one of its biggest fans decided investors had probably seen the best of the shares.

Almost 2.5 million shares changed hands as Merrill Lynch, the US securities house, downgraded its recommendation from "accumulate" to "neutral". It follows a profit warning yesterday from another chemical company, Union Carbide in the US.

Robyn Coombes, who follows ICI for Merrill, said: "We know that the third quarter has been weak for the chemical companies. The company is beginning a round-up next week with analysts. I've been a buyer from the bottom up. The shares are now fully valued."

She continues to back the management long term and expects it to complete its restructuring and disposal programme. The rest of the equity market experienced a 40.5 point turnaround as investors and traders saw out the expiry of the FTSE 100 index options and futures.

Business proved to be frenetic in the run-up to the deadline as traders rushed to cover open positions. A total of 15,020 contracts were completed in the future which, in turn, spilled over into the cash market and boosted turnover to 952 million shares — the best of the week.

Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, was said to have been especially active in the futures pit.

In the event, the opening fall on Wall Street in the run-up to the "triple witching" hour left prices in London down at their low point of the day.

The FTSE 100 index closed 22.4 down at 5,023.8, reducing the gain on the week to 175.6.

This was not a bad performance considering the spectre of higher interest rates has come back to haunt the City this week. The prospect was raised by stronger than expected retail sales and wage inflation. This, combined with the lowest number of people out of work since 1980, suggests that the economy is continuing to overheat.

Economists such as Neil MacKinnon at Citibank say it could lead to a rise in interest rates of as much as half a point to 7.5 per cent before Christmas.

Yesterday's train crash at Southall, West London, took the edge off an otherwise successful week for the **Railtrack** share price. It has been rising steadily on the back of US buying and suggestions by Panmure Gordon, the broker, that it is ready to crystallise the value of its extensive property portfolio.

The price hit a peak of 855p yesterday but when news of the fatal crash came through the price dropped to 829p before rallying to close 11½p lower at 833p on turnover of 3.1 million shares. The price still ended 65p up on the week.

Carlton Communications rose 12½p to 511½p, and **Granada Group** put on 14p at 818p. It follows reports that the Government may offer financial incentives for television viewers to buy set-top boxes and switch to digital broadcasting. **Pace Micro**, which makes the boxes, rose 10p to 60p. Granada gave a talk to brokers on Thursday and Carlton has joined up with Intermedia to establish a development for film funding.

Reed International fell 7p to 564½p amid speculation that its joint venture operation, Reed Elsevier, is poised to buy Telerate from Dow Jones Inc.

BOC Group extended this week's gains with a rise of 29½p to £11.33½, stretching the lead of the past two days to 59p.

Neil Goulden, managing director at **Allied Leisure**, reported profits before tax and exceptionals up 64 per cent to £4.17 million for the year to June 30. The shares, however, fell 2p to 33p. An exceptional item of £390,000 covers the cost of Mr Goulden's long-term incentive scheme.

The City gave a lukewarm reception to the news that WH Smith had made an internal appointment to the role of chief executive after the abrupt departure of Bill Cockburn in June. The shares finished 6½p off at 368p.

Chiroscience came off the boil, falling 7½p to 270p after giving a presentation to brokers on Thursday. Tests on its local anaesthetic, levobupivacaine, had progressed well and new data should reinforce its case when it comes to seeking approval from European and US authorities.

A wave of selling by US investors saw **De La Rue** touch 391½p before rallying to close a net 5½p lower on the day at 399½p.

There seems to be no stopping **Pickquick**, the Ofex-listed company that has developed "Computter", an electronic golf putting range in a brief case. Placed at just 19p last month, the shares closed last night at 169½p. It needs to sell 500 "Computter" units a month to break even but already has an order booking running at 2,000 a month. In October, it plans to launch a sales assault on the golf-mad Japanese market.

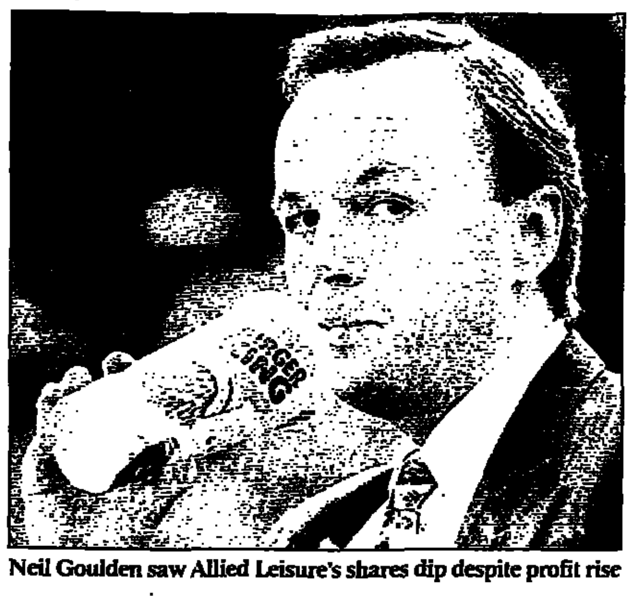
A profits warning sent **Prism Leisure**, the computer games group, clattering down 85p to 82½p. Robert Skelton, finance director, said results for the year would be significantly below current expectations. Sales of computer software had fallen 44 per cent with profits down 31 per cent. The group blamed the strong pound for the downturn in sales.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The London bond market gave back some of this week's impressive gains on the back of early losses by US treasury bonds. London underperformed other European bond markets as prices drifted on lack of support.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt ended £$\frac{11}{32}$ down at £117$\frac{7}{16}$.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 was £$\frac{5}{8}$ lower at £116$\frac{11}{16}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 6 per cent 1999 slipped a couple of ticks to close at £98$\frac{17}{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK**: The Dow Jones industrial average was down 33.20 points at 7,889.52 at midday, losing ground as investors took profits out of cyclical issues and sorted through the triple expiration of index futures, index options and options.



Neil Goulden saw Allied Leisure's shares dip despite profit rise

Tate & Lyle has lost its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies, but closed 6½p up at 420½p. The rise renewed speculation that AB Foods, 12p lower at 550½p and with £1.6 billion cash, wants to make a bid. Such a move would give ABF 80 per cent of the sugar market, but attract the Monopolies Commission.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
La Senza	25½p	-7p	Recent poor figures
National Grid	280½p	+16½p	Energis to be floated
Paramount	22½p	-8p	Profits warning
National Power	544½p	-19p	Profit forecasts' too high
Tracker Network	585p	-30p	Merger talks aborted
British Aerospace	£16.52	+128p	Brokers' recommendation
Datrontech	91½p	+14p	Director buys 400,000 shares
Railtrack	833p	+62p	US buying
Prism Leisure	82½p	-88p	Profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7889.52 (-33.20)
S&P Composite 947.18 (-0.11)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18058.21 (+128.12)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14384.13 (-35.32)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 8093.29 (-9.48)

Sydney:
AO 2730.40 (+34.10)

Frankfurt:
DAX 4032.97 (+32.49)

Singapore:
Straits 1894.73 (-1.36)

Brussels:
General 13536.63 (+28.40)

Paris:
CAC-40 2977.18 (-1.19)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 1176.60 (-0.40)

London:
FT 30 3245.6 (-2.0)
FTSE 100 5023.8 (-22.4)
FTSE 250 4701.2 (-0.6)
FTSE 350 2417.8 (-8.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100 2621.58 (+4.85)
FTSE All-Share 2362.31 (-7.80)
FTSE Non Financials 2383.19 (-4.05)
FTSE Fixed Interest 128.98 (+0.16)
FTSE Govt Secs 99.35 (-0.61)
Bargains 47370
SEAQ Volume 779.6m
US$ 1.6080 (-0.0077)
German Mark 2.8486 (-0.0136)
Exchange Index 100.2 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.4536
£:SDR 1.17160
RPI 158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX 157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta Cv Uts	397½	...
Bristol & West Prf	116¼	- ¼
Cammell Laird	145½	+ 1
Computerland UK	120	...
EMI B	122½	+ 2½
Fst Ireland Cnv Unit	169½	...
GR Holdings	52½	...
Galen Holdings	296	+ 21
Helicon Pubsig	92½	...
I S Solutions	135½	...
Kingfisher Leisure	177½	...
Reabourne Merlin	104½	...
SBS Group	110½	...
Severn Trent B	37½	- 1
Stentor Warrants	37½	...
Thorn B	20½	...
Vigien Technology	58½	- 2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Gearhouse n/p (250)	103½	...
John Lusty n/p (8)	1¼	+ ¼
Langdons Foods n/p (1)	½	...
Misys Uts Cnv U n/p	82½	- 2½
SEET n/p (30)	1¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Pace Micro 60p (+10p)
Blick 235p (+27½p)
Save Group 89½p (+9½p)
Quadramatic 178½p (+13p)
Northamber 165p (+11½p)
EFT Group 200p (+12½p)
Arjo Wiggins 203p (+11p)

FALLS:
Prism Leisure 82½p (-85p)
Colt Telecom 446½p (-30p)
Go-Ahead 498p (-24p)
Telspec 230p (-10p)
Shield Diag 680p (-27½p)
TI 613½p (-21p)
ICI 986p (-32p)
Standard Chart 832½p (-26p)
BPB 346½p (-10p)
Lloyds TSB 764p (-21p)
Safeway 385p (-10p)
Cable & Wireless 532½p (-13p)
BTG 722½p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 45

TEMPUS

A bird in the hand

THE new chief executive of WH Smith Group has everything to prove. A less-challenged company might easily dress up Richard Handover to look the ideal candidate. He has spent 32 years with the group, has extensive retail experience and has worked successfully in most corners of the business, including the Virgin Our Price music chain and, most recently, the news distribution arm.

The trouble is, Smith is in the City's spotlight after years of underperformance: Bill Cockburn, who Mr Handover succeeds, deserted the company with his supposed four year turnaround barely begun. Sceptics worry that Mr Cockburn walked out because Smith's problems are too difficult to put right. Their larger concern is that the board has funked the succession challenge by plumping for an insider who can be trusted not to rock the boat. Jeremy Hardie, the chairman, does not see the point of another strategic overhaul, preferring a period of stability in which to reinforce basic retailing skills at WH Smith Retail, where the problems lie. He may also hope that the familiar Mr Handover will be more acceptable to internal rivals who might leave rather than face an aggressive outsider.

With backing from a strong team of non-executive directors, Mr Handover deserves to be given the benefit of the doubt. But the calls for demerger will soon return if profits fail to improve. It is difficult to see how Waterstone's and Virgin Our Price can be expanded without cannibalising sales from the core retail chain. The example of Sears should serve as a terrible reminder of what can happen when the wrong businesses are shackled together for too long.

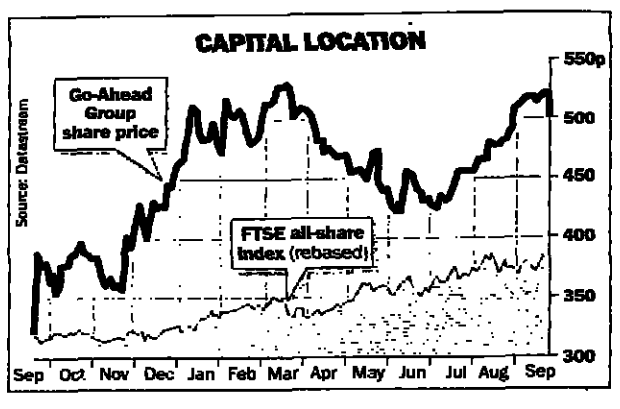
Go-Ahead

GO-AHEAD'S soaring profits from its rail franchises were somewhat overshadowed by yesterday's rail disaster in Southall but whatever the cause of the accident, which did not involve Go-Ahead, questions will again be raised about investment in transport infrastructure. Any company that depends on public subsidy, albeit a declining one, will become defensive when its profits increase sharply, and Go-Ahead reckons it needs fat margins if it is to replace its bus fleet with new vehicles. So, yesterday it berated the Government over fuel taxes and higher pension costs.

On the rails, Go-Ahead is achieving traffic growth beyond its wildest dreams, with passenger volumes up 12 per cent, of which a mere 1 per cent is attributable to catching fare dodgers. Strong employment growth in the South East is the main factor, providing more commuters for Thames Trains and Thameslink, but this growth will slow with the economy and, longer-term, Go-Ahead will need to find growth opportunities elsewhere.

If passenger growth plateaus over the next two years, it will coincide with the arrival of new competition as train operators attempt to muscle in on rival operators' routes. The London franchises, with their high volume of traffic, will be prime targets and Go-Ahead will need to be nimble. However, its patch is protected for two years and yesterday's share slide is a buying opportunity.

CAPITAL LOCATION



Source: Datastream

Guinness

WEEKS have gone by without a peep from Bernard Arnault but the chairman of LVMH has not been idling by the pool.

He has been working on a wizard scheme to reconcile his ambition to control the world's biggest drinks company, with the understandable suspicions of other shareholders.

To recap, M Arnault, the biggest single shareholder in both Guinness and GrandMet, objects to being excluded from the British companies' cosy two-way merger. In July, he came up with a proposal of his own, involving the merger of all three parties' drinks arms and the spinning off of Guinness Brewing, Pillsbury foods and Burger King.

Now he is prepared to accept less than the 35 per cent stake he had previously been asking for in the three-way drinks company. He also appears willing to take a minority stake in business to be spun off.

Call it a climbdown or a compromise — Mr Arnault's new offer looks less aggressive than his previous vow to scupper the deal at all costs. Given the conciliatory noises being made by Guinness and GrandMet yesterday, the two parties could be on the verge of striking a deal, which can only be good for the shares.

Tour operators

IMAGINE you own a share in a company with highly volatile profits. Business is booming again after a cyclical downturn and profits are expected to surge after a windfall gain in new business.

Meanwhile, headhunters are poaching the company's best staff at extraordinary salaries and there are rumours that the market leader is about to launch a campaign to regain lost market share.

We could be talking about an investment bank but this time it is Airtours, the tour operator. However, the logic is the same and the shares should be sold. Tour operators have enjoyed two summers of fair weather, thanks to an unexpected decision to cut capacity and some clever diversification into the Canadian and Scandinavian markets. Airtours has also invested in budget Mediterranean cruises and profits should exceed £100 million in the year to September. Yet this industry suffers from a crippling weakness. There are no barriers to entry and capacity can be added to the market at the wink of an eye.

Thomson, the largest operator, is keen to regain market share it has lost to rivals and is also targeting Scandinavia, where Airtours has made investments. Even more ominous is the rumour that Thomson is for sale. If the Canadian owner of Britain's largest tour operator thinks that profits are peaking, why disagree?

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH FUNDS

1997 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101½	100	Treas 6¾% 1997	100		8.75	
106	100	Exch 15% 1997	100	-	14.89	6.83
115½	113	Treas 4¾% 1998	115½		4.00	6.86
103¼	100	Exch 9¾% 1998	100		9.67	6.98
101	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	+	7.24	7.07
110¼	104	Treas 14% 1998-01	104	-	13.41	6.94
114	108¼	Treas 15½% 1998	108¼	-	14.32	7.00
109	105	Exch 12% 1998	105	-	11.39	7.01
105¾	102	Treas 9½% 1999	102	-	9.22	6.93
111	107¾	Exch 12¼% 1999	107	-	11.40	6.96
108	105	Treas 10½% 1999	105	-	9.96	6.93
99	96	Treas 6% 1999	98	-	6.09	6.84
107¼	106¼	Conv 10¼% 1999	106	-	9.62	6.93
106	104½	Conv 9% 2000	104¾	-	8.60	6.90
104	102	Treas 8% 2000	103	-	7.75	6.84
104	103	Treas 8½% 2000	103	-	8.23	6.92
119	114	Treas 13% 2000	115	-	11.29	6.93
112	98	Treas 10% 2001	109		9.15	6.89
101¼	99	Treas 7% 2001	100	-	6.95	6.84
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101	97	Treas 7% 2002	101	-	6.93	6.74
122¼	109½	Treas 9¾% 2002	111	-	8.71	6.84
105	102	Treas 8% 2003	105¾	-	7.57	6.77
116	111¼	Treas 10% 2003	115¼	-	8.67	6.83
116	113¼	Treas 11½% 2001-04	114	-	10.09	6.91
89	82	Fund 3½% 1999-04	88	-	3.96	5.59
115	109	Conv 9½% 2004	115	-	8.25	6.76
100	94	Treas 6¾% 2004	100	-	6.74	6.72
111	105	Treas 8½% 2005	110	-	7.66	6.73
122	110	Conv 9½% 2005	115	-	8.19	6.75
129	124	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128	-	9.76	6.83
105¾	98	Treas 7¾% 2006	105	-	7.12	6.71
107¼	99	Treas 7¾% 2006	106	-	7.27	6.75
104	100	Treas 8% 2002-06	104	- ⅛	7.66	6.92
127	115	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121	-	9.67	6.84
112¼	105	Treas 8½% 2007	112	-	7.56	6.74
104	95¾	Treas 7¼% 2007	104	-	6.96	6.67
117	108	Treas 9% 2008	117¼	-	7.65	6.71
110	101	Treas 8% 2009	110	-	7.24	6.72
LONGS (over 15 years)						
96	86¼	Treas 6¼% 2010	95	- ⅛	6.52	6.71
120	109½	Conv 9% 2011	120¼	-	7.48	6.71
121¾	109¼	Treas 9% 2012	121	-	7.43	6.72
90	80	Treas 5½% 2008-12	90	-	6.09	6.52
113	100	Treas 8% 2013	112	-	7.11	6.70
109	98	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	109¼	-	7.09	6.73
114	101	Treas 8% 2015	114	-	7.00	6.63
122¼	103	Treas 8¾% 2017	122¼	- ⅛	7.13	6.67
117	101	Tr 8% 2021	116	- ⅛	6.86	6.59
UNDATED						
52	43	War Ln 3½%	52	- ¼	6.69	
36	30	Treas 2½%	36	- ⅛	6.81	
58	49	Consols 4%	58	+ ¼	6.90	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
189	184	Treas IL 2½% 2001	123½	-	2.74	3.47
186¼	180	Treas IL 2½% 2003	186¼	- ⅛	2.94	3.45
120¾	117	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	120	-	2.99	3.43
198	190	Treas IL 2% 2006	197	-	3.08	3.42
179	170	Treas IL 2½% 2009	179¼	-	3.10	3.38
169	176	Treas IL 2½% 2011	156	-	3.14	3.39
154	144	Treas IL 2½% 2013	154	- ¼	3.17	3.38
165¾	153	Treas IL 2½% 2016	165	-	3.19	3.39
159¼	147	Treas IL 2½% 2020	159	-	3.24	3.40
133	122	Treas IL 2½% 2024	132	-	3.25	3.39
130	119	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	130	- ¼	3.24	3.33

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Jan	Apr	Puts Oct	Jan	Apr
ASDA	140	16	20½	25	½	2½	4
(*155)	160	3	8½	11	7½	10	12
Abbey Nat	850	59	97	113	9½	33	49
(*895½)	900	28½	69	86	28½	55	72
All&Lei	650	28½	48	62½	7½	18½	30
(*666)	700	6½	23	37½	36½	44½	55½
Alld Dom	460	26½	41½	49	5	21	25½
(*480)	500	6	21½	30½	23	43	47
BAA	550	26½	43½	57	7	19½	23½
(*567½)	600	4½	20½	33	35½	46½	50
BAT Ind	500	37	60½	68½	7½	20½	30
(*528)	550	11	34½	43	30½	43½	55½
Barclays	1500	62½	138½	154½	41	90	105
(*1514)	1600	22½	90½	109	101½	142½	159
Bass	850	24½	51½	68½	18½	45	57½
(*853)	900	6½	29	47	51	74½	81½
Boots	800	45½	73	90	7½	26	32½
(*834)	850	18	46½	63	28½	47	55½
Br Airways	650	26	49½	65	14	30½	35
(*660)	700	7	28½	42	44	58	62½
BP	900	34	67	83½	17	40	50
(*912)	950	14	42½	61	45	66	75½
Br Steel	180	9½	15½	21	3½	11½	12½
(*185½)	200	1½	7	12	15½	22½	24
C&W	500	41½	61	72½	5½	20	25
(*533)	550	13	34½	46	26	42½	48½
CU	750	36½	75	91	19	45	59
(*763½)	800	16	51	67	47½	71½	86
GlaxoW	1300	62	114½	142½	25	57	74
(*1336)	1350	34½	92½	115½	46½	80	97
HSBC	1900	98½	200	245	46½	109	151
(*1952½)	2000	50	156	194½	92	158½	192
Halifax	700	36½	62	75	7	21½	33½
(*725½)	750	10½	35	48½	31½	45½	58
ICI	950	47½	88½	100½	14	33½	51½
(*979½)	1000	21	62½	73½	36½	56	74
Land Sec	900	40	63	82½	7	21½	28
(*929)	950	12	36½	54½	29	45	51
M&S	600	18	37½	51½	14	28	35½
(*602)	650	4	18	31½	48½	57½	62½
Natl Pwr	500	49½	67	80½	3	18	21
(*545)	550	14½	38	50	19	39	39½
Nat West	850	43	89½	102½	17½	44	61½
(*874½)	900	20½	65½	78	42½	68½	86
Reuters	650	53½	78	91	5	19½	30½
(*697)	700	19½	48½	62	20	40	52½
Ryl&Sun	500	48½	68½	77½	3	14	23½
(*543½)	550	15	39½	48½	20	34	45
Safeway	360	30	39½	48	1½	9	13
(*387)	390	9	21½	30½	11	21½	25½
Sainsbury	420	32½	44½	54½	3½	11	17
(*448½)	460	8½	22	31½	18½	28½	35
Shell	433	23	37½	—	9	21	—
(*448)	450	14	28½	—	16	28½	—
SmKl Bch	525	32½	54	67½	9½	25	31½
(*547½)	550	18	41½	55	20	36½	43½
Std Char	800	51½	90½	104½	16½	41	55
(*832½)	850	25	65½	78½	39	65½	75½
Thames W	800	36½	57	75	10	28	34½
(*823½)	850	12½	34	49½	35½	54½	60
Vodafone	300	33	43½	52	1½	9½	12½
(*329½)	330	12½	26	35	10½	21½	25
Woolwich	300	26	37	43	2	8	12
(*323)	330	7	19	26	12½	20	25
Zeneca	1900	93	171½	209	28½	65½	87½
(*1963)	2000	38½	117½	154½	69	112	132

	Series	Calls Nov	Feb	May	Puts Nov	Feb	May
BTR	220	21½	31	33½	6½	11½	15½
(*239)	240	10	20	22½	14½	20½	25
Blue Circ	360	35	47	52	6	10½	15
(*385½)	390	17	29½	35	18	22	28
Br Aero	1600	94	137	168	38½	56½	71
(*1653)	1700	45	84½	114	88½	105	118
Br Telcm	385	34	40	—	10	22½	—
(*405)	425	13½	20½	—	29	44½	—
Cadbury	550	32	47½	56	14½	21½	30½
(*561½)	600	11½	24½	32½	42½	49	57½
Energy Gp	600	48½	57	60½	2	10	10½
(*639½)	650	11½	26	30	17½	20½	28
Gallaher	260	18½	24	29½	7½	12½	17
(*276)	280	8½	15	19½	18½	22½	28
GEC	360	37	45½	55	6½	12	14½
(*388)	390	18	28	38	17	24	27
Grnd Met	550	59	73	84½	7	16½	22
(*597½)	600	27	43	57	24½	37	43
Guinness	550	41	56½	61	11½	30	25
(*577½)	600	15½	31	35½	35½	45	49½
Hanson	300	13½	23½	28½	12½	17	22½
(*302½)	330	3½	11	16	33	35½	40½
Imp Tob	360	23½	28	33½	8	18½	22½
(*371½)	390	9	13½	20	23½	36½	40
Kingfshr	750	56½	77	88½	19½	30	40½
(*787½)	800	29½	51	61½	41	53½	61½
Lasmo	260	11½	19½	23½	11½	16½	18
(*260)	280	5	11½	14½	25	29	30
Ladbroke	260	12	20½	25	13	17	20
(*260)	280	5	12	17	26	29	31½
LucasVar	220	13	20	24½	6½	12	14
(*224)	240	5	11½	15½	18½	23½	25
P&O	650	41	58	67	13	19	29½
(*679½)	700	16	32	41	38½	44	54½
Prudentl	600	48	68	75½	16½	25½	36
(*630)	650	20½	42½	50½	41½	50½	60
Rio Tinto	950	62	89½	100½	15	26	40½
(*997)	1000	32	60½	72	35	48	63
Redland	280	22½	30	35	6	11½	16½
(*)	380	10½	20	24½	15½	21	26½
R-Royce	220	21	29½	33½	7	10	13
(*234)	240	10	19½	23	16	19½	22½
Tesco	420	44½	56	64	5	10	15½
(*460½)	460	17½	30	39½	19	25½	31
Utd Bisc	180	19½	25	26½	1½	3½	6
(*198)	200	8	13½	15½	9½	11½	15

	Series	Calls Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
BG PLC	260	19½	25	30½	15	18½	22½
(*263)	280	12	16½	21½	27	30	34
BSkyB	460	49½	60½	73	23	28½	35½
(*491)	500	37½	40½	53½	42	48½	55
Br Bio	160	24½	33½	40½	16	21	25
(*166½)	180	16	24½	32	27	32½	36
Centrica	80	12½	15½	17	2½	4	5½
(*87½)	90	7	10	11½	7	8½	10
Dixons	600	58	72½	87	20½	28½	36
(*630)	650	30½	46	61	44	51½	60
EMI	575	51	64½	—	29½	37½	—
(*587½)	600	37	52	—	45	51½	—
Granada	800	57	72½	88	23	31	42½
(*819½)	850	32½	48	62	50½	56	67
GUS	650	49	66	81½	20	29	35
(*681)	700	25½	42	56½	45½	54	60
Llyds TSB	750	67	84½	102½	35½	51½	62½
(*765)	800	43½	60	78	61½	77½	88
Lonrho	100	13½	17½	18	2	3½	5½
(*109)	110	7½	12½	13	6	8	10
Norwich	330	22½	33	38½	10½	15	19
(*338)	360	9½	19	24½	28	31	34½
Orange	220	13½	20½	25½	10½	14	16½
(*220)	240	5½	11½	16½	23	25½	27½
Railtrck	800	75½	91	107½	26½	37½	44
(*836)	850	48½	65	81½	49	60½	67½
Scot Pwr	430	46½	57½	63	10	16½	19
(*449)	460	25½	36	42	25½	32½	37
Tarmac	120	9½	13½	14½	5	7	10
(*124)	130	5½	9	10	11	12½	15½
Tomkins	300	37½	42½	49	3½	7	9½
(*328½)	330	18	24	31½	13½	18	21
Unilever	1700	136	183½	213	50	75½	98½
(*1768½)	1800	82	132½	160½	95	121	144

September 19 Total: 56603 Calls: 32000 Puts: 24603

FTSE INDEX (*5020½)

Strike	Calls Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jun	Puts Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jun
4900	129½	211	277	321½	486	—	61½	100½	127	218
4950	79½	174	243½	290	—	—	74½	118½	146	—
5000	29½	141½	213	261	424	—	95	139½	167½	256
5050	—	112½	182½	231½	—	26½	117	159½	189	—
5100	—	87½	152½	202½	367	76½	142½	183	212½	300½
5150	—	65½	131½	179	—	126½	172½	213	240½	—
5200	—	47½	110½	157	316½	176½	205½	242	270½	350

September 19 Total: 29232 Calls: 15141 Puts: 14091 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 173364	Sep 97 Dec 97	117-29 117-17	118-00 117-22	117-20 117-11	117-31 117-14	694 59838
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 272263	Dec 97 Mar 98	102.67 101.90	102.67 101.90	102.44 101.81	102.59 101.83	112787 181
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 115139	Dec 97 Mar 98	111.10	111.72	111.05	111.62 111.52	51751 0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97 Mar 98	127.57	127.63	127.53	127.58 126.64	1154 0
Three Mth Sterling Previous open interest 625152	Dec 97 Mar 98 Jun 98	92.59 92.64 92.73	92.60 92.66 92.76	92.57 92.60 92.64	92.57 92.61 92.70	16731 13158 12313
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1547721	Oct 97 Mar 98	96.59 96.23	96.60 96.24	96.58 96.16	96.58 96.19	1373 56562
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 361868	Dec 97 Mar 98	93.87 94.54	94.03 94.76	93.86 94.53	93.99 94.71	32317 40140
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98 Jun 98				99.38 99.31	0 0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 144760	Dec 97 Mar 98	98.28 98.06	98.30 98.07	98.23 98.01	98.26 98.04	8013 1433
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 31597	Dec 97 Mar 98	95.57 95.50	95.57 95.50	95.55 95.48	95.56 95.50	680 166
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 83480	Sep 97 Dec 97	5084.0 5150.0	5084.0 5152.0	5027.0 5080.0	5032.5 5098.0	6181 15020

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans O/night high: 7¼ Low 6¾ Week fixed: 6$\frac{15}{16}$
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6$\frac{15}{16}$; 3 mth 6$\frac{15}{16}$. Sell: 2 mth 6$\frac{27}{32}$; 3 mth: 6$\frac{27}{32}$.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	7-6¾	7$\frac{1}{16}$-6$\frac{31}{32}$	7$\frac{1}{16}$-6$\frac{31}{32}$	7¼-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates	7⅛-7$\frac{1}{16}$	7$\frac{3}{16}$-7⅛	7¼-7$\frac{3}{16}$	7⅜-7¼	7$\frac{17}{32}$-7$\frac{13}{32}$
Interbank	7⅛-7$\frac{1}{16}$	7$\frac{3}{16}$-7⅛	7¼-7$\frac{3}{16}$	7⅜-7¼	7$\frac{17}{32}$-7$\frac{13}{32}$

Overnight: open 6$\frac{15}{16}$, close 6$\frac{15}{16}$.

Local Authority Deps	7	n/a	7⅛	7¼	7⅜
Sterling CDs	7$\frac{1}{32}$-7$\frac{1}{32}$	7$\frac{1}{16}$-7⅛	7$\frac{3}{16}$-7⅛	7$\frac{5}{16}$-7¼	7½-7$\frac{7}{16}$
Dollar CDs	5.57	n/a	5.60	5.70	5.87
Building Society CDs	7-7$\frac{1}{16}$	7$\frac{1}{16}$-7$\frac{1}{32}$	7⅛-7¼	7$\frac{11}{32}$-7$\frac{9}{32}$	7$\frac{19}{32}$-7$\frac{15}{32}$

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £949m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.28% received: 25%; last week: £98.285% received: 94%, Avge rate: £6.8713% last wk £6.8776%: Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	5$\frac{17}{32}$-5½	5$\frac{19}{32}$-5$\frac{17}{32}$	5$\frac{19}{32}$-5$\frac{17}{32}$	5$\frac{23}{32}$-5⅝	5¼-4¾
Deutschemark	3$\frac{11}{32}$-3$\frac{5}{16}$	3$\frac{5}{16}$-3$\frac{7}{32}$	3⅜-3	3$\frac{1}{2}$-3$\frac{7}{16}$	3¼-2¾
French Franc	3⅛-3	3$\frac{5}{16}$-3$\frac{3}{16}$	3⅜-3⅛	3½-3⅜	3⅛-2⅞
Swiss Franc	2$\frac{11}{16}$-2$\frac{9}{16}$	3$\frac{1}{16}$-2$\frac{15}{16}$	3⅛-3	3¼-3$\frac{1}{16}$	1¼-¾
Yen	½-$\frac{11}{32}$	½-$\frac{11}{32}$	⅝-½	$\frac{9}{16}$-½	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $320.80-321.30 **Close**: $322.20-322.70 **High**: $322.20-322.70
Low: $320.80-321.30 **AM**: $321.15 **PM**: $322.05

Krugerrand: $322.00-324.00 (£199.75-201.75)

Platinum: $428.00 (£266.15) **Silver**: $4.76 (£2.955) **Palladium**: $195.00 (£121.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2081-3.2268	3.2081-3.2107	1-¾pr	3⅛-2¾pr
Brussels	58.784-59.150	58.784-58.863	20-16pr	58-51pr
Copenhagen	10.847-10.912	10.847-10.855	⅜-¼pr	1-¾pr
Dublin	1.0767-1.0877	1.0802-1.0822	11-5pr	34-27pr
Frankfurt	2.8494-2.8653	2.8494-2.8514	⅝-½pr	2⅛-2¼pr
Lisbon	289.52-291.24	289.52-289.82	⅞-¾pr	1½-1¼pr
Madrid	240.27-241.74	240.27-240.42	41-31pr	130-112pr
Milan	2779.0-2796.2	2779.0-2782.3	17-2pr	56-33pr
Montreal	2.2332-2.2416	2.2348-2.2365	0.70-0.65pr	1.44-1.35pr
New York	1.6062-1.6108	1.6089-1.6096	0.205-.185pr	0.63-0.60pr
Oslo	11.592-11.646	11.592-11.606	⅜-¼pr	1-¾pr
Paris	9.5694-9.6220	9.5694-9.5811	3⅛-2¾pr	9⅛-8¼pr
Stockholm	12.205-12.268	12.225-12.239	⅝-¼pr	1-¾pr
Tokyo	195.03-196.28	195.91-196.09	1⅛-1pr	3⅛-3¼pr
Vienna	20.051-20.169	20.051-20.067	⅞-¾pr	2-1¾pr
Zurich	2.3443-2.3599	2.3443-2.3465	1⅛-1pr	3⅞-3¾pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3856-1.3865
Austria	12.47-12.48
Belgium (Com)	36.58-36.59
Canada	1.3890-1.3895
Denmark	6.7508-6.7528
France	5.9560-5.9565
Germany	1.7730-1.7735
Hong Kong	7.7410-7.7420
Ireland	1.4845-1.4865
Italy	1729.80-1731.30
Japan	121.70-121.75
Malaysia	3.0335-3.0375
Netherlands	1.9967-1.9972
Norway	7.2190-7.2210
Portugal	180.18-180.28
Singapore	1.5160-1.5170
Spain	149.60-149.63
Sweden	7.6133-7.6183
Switzerland	1.4586-1.4596

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6081-1.6108
Australia dollar	2.2288-2.2317
Bahrain dinar	0.5985-0.6125
Brazil real*	1.7577-1.7601
China yuan	13.158-13.458
Cyprus pound	0.8325-0.8515
Finland markka	8.4675-8.6085
Greece drachma	446.5-457.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.4514-12.4608
India rupee	57.93-59.23
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4840-0.4950
Malaysia ringgit	4.8754-4.8849
New Zealand dollar	2.5306-2.5350
Pakistan rupee	63.50 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7800-5.9150
Singapore dollar	2.4365-2.4396
S Africa rand (com)	7.4380-7.6070
U A E dirham	5.8325-5.9685

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	1,900	Ladbroke	1,800
ASDA Gp	11,700	Land Secs	1,500
Abbey Ntl	3,400	Legal & Gn	2,900
Allnce & Leic	1,800	Lloyds TSB	11,300
Allied Dom	3,100	LucasVarity	2,700
AB Foods	1,000	Marks Spr	6,900
BAA	2,200	Mercury Ast	1,700
BAT Inds	8,200	NatWst Bk	5,500
BG	11,400	Nat Grid	2,600
BOC	3,600	Nat Power	6,300
BP	11,100	Next	1,200
BSkyB	7,000	Orange	1,600
BTR	12,200	P & O	1,100
BT	14,000	Pearson	3,600
Bk of Scot	1,800	PowerGen	1,400
Barclays	2,300	Prudential	4,000
Bass	2,500	RMC	2,300
Blue Circle	2,700	Railtrack	4,900
Boots	1,900	Rank Group	1,100
BAe	2,400	Reckitt Col	585
BA	3,500	Reed Intl	3,400
British Land	1,000	Rentokil	8,900
Brit Steel	24,900	Reuters	6,700
Burmah Cstl	1,800	Rio Tinto	2,800
Cable Wire	5,000	Rolls Royce	2,600
Cadbury	3,400	Royal & Sun	3,100
Carlton Cms	3,400	Royal Bk Sct	3,600
Centrica	15,300	Safeway	4,600
Cm Union	2,000	Sainsbury	5,100
Dixons	3,400	Schroders	289
EMI	2,600	Scot & New	756
Energy Gp	895	Scot Power	2,500
Enterpr Oil	3,400	Svrn Trent	1,700
GKN	2,500	Shell Trans	32,400
GRE	1,600	Siebe	1,400
GUS	1,700	Smkl Bch	6,200
Gen Acc	421	Smiths Inds	733
Gen Elec	6,000	Std Chartd	3,300
Glaxo Well	5,700	TI Gp	1,400
Granada	4,400	Tate & Lyle	8,300
Grand Met	2,700	Tesco	4,900
Guinness	2,800	Thames W	476
HSBC	3,600	Tomkins	4,200
Halifax	5,300	Unilever	1,600
Hanson	5,700	Utd Utilities	3,900
Hays	1,200	Utd News	952
ICI	2,500	Vodafone	7,800
Imp Tob	4,900	Whitbread	787
Kingfisher	4,000	Wolseley	769
LASMO	2,700	Zeneca	2,400

WALL STREET

	Sep 19 midday	Sep 18 close
AMP Inc	55	55
AMR Corp	115¼	114¾
AT & T	44⅛	44¼
Abbott Labs	63	63¼
Advanced Micro	31	32⅛
Aetna Life	105⅜	106¼
Ahmanson (HF)	56¼	56⅝
Air Prod & Chem	86⅛	87¼
AirTouch Comm	36⅛	36⅛
Albertson's	33⅝	33⅛
Alcan Alumnm	35⅛	35¼
Allied Signal	43¾	44⅛
Alum Co of Am	82⅝	82⅝
Amerada Hess	61⅛	61⅛
Amer El Power	46	45⅝
Amer Express	79¼	79¼
Amer Genl Corp	53¼	53¼
Amer Home Pr	70¼	70¼
Amer Intl	104⅝	104¼
Amer Stores	24⅝	25⅛
Amer Standard	39⅝	40
Ameritech	64⅛	64¼
Amgen	48⅛	48¼
Amoco	96¼	97⅛
Andrew Corp	24¼	25
Anheuser-Busch	45⅛	45¼
Apple Computer	22	22⅛
Archer Daniels	23⅛	23⅛
Armco	6	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	68⅛	67¼
Asarco	31⅝	31⅝
Atl Richfield	85½	85¼
Atmel Corp	36¼	37⅛
Auto Data Pro	47⅛	47⅛
Avery Dennison	39¼	39¼
Avon Products	65½	65¼
Baker Hughes	44¼	44¼
Baltim Gas & El	27	27⅝
Banc One	54⅝	55¼
BankAmerica	74¼	74¼
Bank of NY	48⅜	48⅜
Bankers Tr NY	124⅛	125⅝
Barnett Banks	67⅝	67¼
Bausch & Lomb	38⅛	38¾
Baxter Intl	53⅛	54¼
Bectn Dicknsn	48¼	49⅛
Bell Atlantic	79⅛	79¼
BellSouth	46¾	46¼
Black & Decker	37⅝	38¼
Block (H&R)	39⅝	39⅛
Boeing	51¾	53
Boise Cascade	41¼	42¼
Boston Scien	61¼	62
Bristol Myrs Sq	79¾	79⅛
Browning Ferris	38	38⅛
Brunswick	33¾	33⅛
Burlington Nthn	96⅛	97
CMS Energy Corp	37¼	37⅛
CPC Intl	92⅛	93¼
CSX	60⅛	61
Campbell Soup	49⅛	49⅝
Carolina Pwr	35¼	35⅝
Case Corp	69⅛	69⅝
Caterpillar	55¾	56⅛
Central & SW	20¼	20⅛
Champion Intl	63¾	65¾
Chase Manhat	117⅛	117¾
Chevron Corp	86⅛	86¼
Chrysler	37⅛	37¾
Chubb Corp	70¼	70⅛
Cigna Corp	191¼	193⅛
Cincorp	134⅝	134
Clorox	72⅛	73¼
Coastal Corp	60⅛	60⅛
Coca Cola	58⅛	58⅝
Coca Cola Ent	27¼	28⅛
Colgate-Palm	69	69
Columbia Gas	70⅛	70⅛
ColumbiaHCA	28⅛	28⅝
Compaq Comp	74¼	73¼
Comp Ass Int	68⅛	68⅝
Conagra	69⅛	70¼
Cons Edison	33¼	34⅛
Cons Nat Gas	58¾	58⅛
Cooper Inds	54	54
Corestates	65¼	65⅝
Corning Inc	44	44⅛
C'wide Credit	36⅛	36¼
Crestar Finl	48	48
Crown Cork	46¼	46¼
Dana Corp	47¼	47⅝
Dayton Hudson	64⅝	65¼
Deere	54⅝	55¼
Delta Air Lines	104¾	103¼
Deluxe Corp	33⅝	33⅝
Digital Equip	40⅞	41¼
Dillard Dept St	44⅛	44¼
Disney (Walt)	79⅝	79⅛
Dominion Res	37⅛	37¼
Donelley (RR)	34⅛	35
Dover Corp	66¼	67
Dow Chemical	93⅞	94¼
Dow Jones	48¼	48¼
Dresser	43⅝	44
Duke Power	49⅝	49¼
Dun & Bradstreet	28¼	28⅛
Du Pont	63⅝	64⅛
Eastman Chem	61	61¼
Eastman Kodak	58¾	57¼
Eaton Corp	93	93¼

	Sep 19 midday	Sep 18 close
Edison Intl	26⅝	26⅝
Elect Data Sys	35¼	35⅛
Emerson Elec	57¼	57⅛
Engelhard Corp	21	21¾
Enron Corp	39⅛	39¾
Entergy	25¼	25¼
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	65¼	66
FMC Corp	89⅛	89¾
FPL Group	49¼	49⅛
Federal Express	78⅛	78¾
Fifth Third Banc	64¼	65⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	66⅝	68⅝
Fluor Corp	54¾	54⅛
Ford Motor	45¼	45¾
Fort James	44	43¼
Fortune Brands	34⅝	34¼
Franklin Res	86¼	86¼
GTE Corp	45¾	45
Gannett	104¼	104¾
Gap Inc Del	52	52¼
Gen Dynamics	90	88¼
Gen Electric	69⅝	70¼
Gen Mills	67⅝	67⅛
Gen Motors	69⅛	68¼
Gen Reinsurance	202	203¼
Gen Signal	42¼	41¼
Genuine Parts	31¼	31¼
Georgia Pac	101	101¼
Gillette	86⅛	85
Glaxo Wellc ADR	43	43¾
Goodrich (BF)	46¼	46¼
Goodyear Tire	65¼	64
Grt Atl Pac Tea	26¼	27
Great Lakes	49¼	48¼
Halliburton	51¼	51¼
Harcourt General	50¼	50¼
Heinz (HJ)	45⅛	45¾
Hercules	49¾	50⅛
Hershey Foods	57¼	57⅝
Hewlett Packard	67¼	67¼
Hilton Hotels	32⅛	32¼
Home Depot	53¾	53¼
Homestake Mng	13⅛	13¾
Honeywell	69¼	69⅛
Household Intl	112¼	114¼
Houston Inds	21⅛	21¼
Humana	24¾	24¾
ITT Corp	62⅝	63¼
Ikon Office	24¼	26⅛
Illinois Tool	49⅛	49⅝
Illinova	22⅝	23⅛
INCO	24¼	25⅝
Ingersoll Rand	43¼	42⅛
Inland Steel	22¼	22⅛
Intel Corp	95¼	95
IBM	99¾	98¼
Intl Flav & Fr	51¼	52
Intl Paper	57¼	58⅛
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	57¼	57¼
Kellogg	44¼	44¼
Kerr-McGee	67⅛	69⅝
Kimberly-Clark	47⅛	47⅝
Kmart	14⅛	14⅛
Knight-Ridder	54¼	55
Lilly (Eli)	113⅝	112⅛
Limited Inc	24¼	24
Lincoln Nat	70⅛	71¼
Litton	55⅛	55⅛
Liz Claiborne	52⅛	52⅝
Lockheed Martin	110	109
Louisiana Pac	24⅛	25¼
MCI Comm	28⅛	28⅛
Manpower Inc	39¼	39¼
Marriott Int	69¼	70
Marsh & McLen	75⅛	76¼
Masco Corp	47	47¼
May Dept St	56	56⅛
Maytag Corp	32¼	33⅛
McDonalds	47⅛	47¼
McGraw Hill	67⅛	67⅛
Mead Corp	73¾	74¼
Medtronic	47⅛	47
Mellon Bk	56¼	56¼
Merck Inc	96⅝	97⅛
Mercury Fin	1¾	1¾
Merrill Lynch	70¼	70⅝
Microsoft	132¾	132¼
Minnesota Mine	86⅛	87¼
Mirage Resorts	28¼	28¼
Mobil Corp	76	76¼
Monsanto	39¾	40⅛
Morgan (JP)	112	110⅝
Motorola Inc	66¼	66⅛
Mylan Labs	24⅝	23¼
Natl Semi	40¼	40⅛
Natl Service Ind	44⅛	44¼
Navistar Int	27¼	28
NY Times A	53⅛	54¼
Newmont Mng	40⅛	39⅝
Nike B	53¼	54⅛
NL Industries	15⅝	15¼
Nordstrom	66⅛	66⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	103⅛	103¼
Nthn State Pwr	49⅛	49⅛
Norwest Corp	61⅛	62¼
Occidental Pet	25¾	25⅛
Ohio Edison	23¼	23¼
Oracle	36¼	36⅝
Oryx Energy Co	26¼	26⅛

	Sep 19 midday	Sep 18 close
Owens Corning	37⅝	37⅝
PPG Industries	64	64⅝
PMI Group	58¼	59¼
PNC Bank	48¼	48¼
PP&L Res	22¼	22¼
Paccar Inc	54¼	54¾
Pacificorp	22⅛	22⅛
Pac Enterprises	34	34¼
Pall Corp	21⅝	21⅝
Parker Hannifin	46¼	46¼
Peco Energy	23¼	23⅛
Penney (JC)	62¾	63⅛
Pennzoil	79⅛	79¼
Pepsico	38¼	38
Pfizer	60⅛	60⅛
Pharm & Upjhn	36⅛	37
Phelps Dodge	77	77¼
Philip Morris	40¼	40⅝
Phillips Pet	49⅝	50⅛
Pitney Bowes	83¼	83¼
Polaroid	49	49⅛
Procter & Gmbl	142	142⅛
Providian	37⅛	36⅛
Pub Serv E & G	25⅛	25¼
Quaker Oats	49⅛	49¼
Ralston Purina	92¼	92⅛
Raychem Corp	89¼	90
Raytheon	60¼	60
Reebok Intl	48¼	48¼
Reliastar Fin	38	38⅛
Reynolds Metals	73¼	73¼
Rockwell Intl	61¾	61⅝
Rohm & Haas	99¼	99⅛
Royal Dutch	54¾	55
Rubbermaid	23¼	25¼
SBC Comms	59¼	59¼
Safeco Corp	52¼	53¼
St Paul's Cos	79⅛	80¼
Salomon Inc	64⅛	64¼
Sara Lee Corp	49⅝	49¼
Schering Plough	50⅝	50¼
Schlumberger	82	82¼
Seagram	35⅛	35⅛
Sears Roebuck	56¼	56¾
Shell Trans	43⅛	43¾
Sherwin Wlms	29⅝	29¼
Silicon Graphics	28¼	28⅛
Snap-On-Tools	44⅛	44¼
Southern Co	22¾	22⅝
Southtrust	50¼	50¾
Sprint Corp	47¼	47¼
Stanley Works	43¾	43¼
Sun Company	43¾	43⅛
Sun Microsys	50⅝	50¾
Suntrust	69¼	69⅛
Supervalu	39¾	40⅛
Synovus Fin	25¼	25¾
Sysco Corp	36¼	36⅛
TRW Inc	56¾	57⅛
TIG Hldgs	34¾	34⅝
Tandy Corp	68⅛	67⅝
Temple Inland	67¼	67
Tenet Healthcare	29¾	28¼
Tenneco	50	49⅝
Texaco	120¼	121⅝
Texas Inst	135¼	133¾
Texas Utilities	35⅝	35⅝
Textron	67¼	67⅛
Thermo Elect	39¾	39⅛
Time Warner	55¾	55¼
Times-Mirror A	56⅛	57⅛
Timken	39¼	40⅛
Torchmark	40¼	40⅛
Toys R Us	35	35⅛
Transamerica	99⅝	100⅛
Travelers	70⅛	70¼
Tribune	53⅛	53⅛
UST Inc	30¼	30¾
US Bancorp	95⅛	95⅛
UAL	86¼	85¼
Unitrin	65¼	65¼
US Inds	40⅛	40
US West Comm	38⅛	38⅛
US West Media	21⅝	21⅛
USAirways Group	40¼	38¾
USX Marathon	35⅛	35⅝
Unicom	24⅝	24⅛
Unilever NV	210¾	211¾
Union Camp	62¼	62¼
Union Carbide	49⅛	53¼
Union Pacific	65⅝	65⅛
Unisys Corp	11¾	11¾
USF&G Corp	23⅛	23¼
United Tech	82⅛	82¼
Unocal Corp	42¼	43
VF Corp	95¼	94¼
Wal-Mart Stores	37¼	37¼
Warner-Lambert	135⅛	138⅛
Waste Mngmt	34	34¼
Wells Fargo	267⅛	268¾
Westinghouse El	25¼	26
Weyerhaeuser	60⅛	60¾
Whirlpool	65	65⅛
Whitman	24⅝	25⅛
Winn Dixie	35⅛	40⅛
Witco Corp	46¼	46⅛
Woolworth	22	21¾
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	74¾	74¾
Xerox	77⅛	77¼
Xilinx Inc	57⅝	57½

هدية من الأهرام

هكذا من الاعلى

HEALTH CHEQUE 40

Counting the cost of private medical cover

WEEKEND MONEY

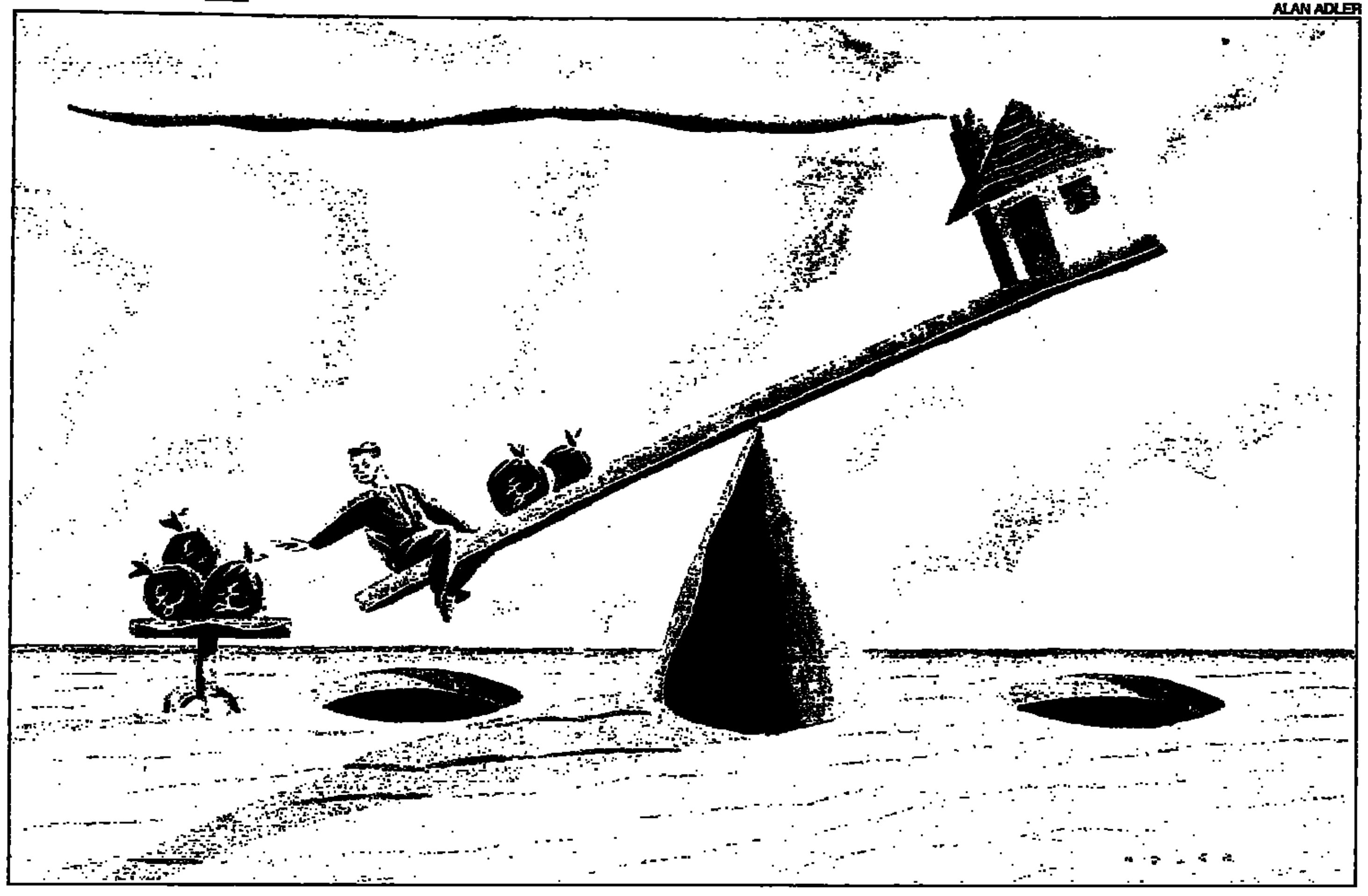
TRUNK CALL 39

Rani lends some weight to Hector's campaign

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Caroline Merrell says a new survey shows how the present regulations have failed customers

Shakeup for financial services



ALAN ADLER

The Government announced this week that it planned to sweep away the present rules on sales and marketing of financial products, be they Personal Equity Plans (Peps), endowment savings schemes or pensions. The Financial Services Act, initially drawn up more than a decade ago, which relied on the firms themselves to regulate the industry, will instead be replaced by a legalistic system of regulation, through one regulator, NewRo.

Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury said: "I do not doubt that the men and women who staff the regulators have worked extremely hard to make sense of the Financial Services Act (FSA) but we are expecting them to do a job within a framework that has failed." She added: "What chance had ordinary investors when faced with an alphabet soup of different regulators."

The FSA has not prevented some of the biggest financial scandals of the century. For example, in spite of the so-called protection of the Act, unscrupulous salesmen were able to persuade ageing homeowners to remortgage to take out high-risk savings plans. Neither did the Act prevent the possible mis-selling of two million personal pension plans, more than a quarter of the total number sold. Compensating victims has only just begun, in spite of the fact that many erroneously bought their pensions nearly a decade ago.

Equally importantly, the Act seems to have failed to introduce true competition among those that sell financial services products.

A survey released this week shows just how the regulations have failed consumers. It revealed that charges on savings plans routinely sold by banks and building societies to pay off mortgages still swallow up as much as a third of the total premiums paid in.

The survey from *Money Marketing*, the trade magazine, showed that in spite of new rules introduced two years ago, demanding that costs be disclosed to consumers, charges have in fact risen.

The highest charging office from those surveyed was Albany Life — 37 per cent of premiums were used to pay commission and other costs. The cheapest unit-linked endowment came from Equitable Life — only 15 per cent of premiums were swallowed up in charges. The costs include life cover, the salesman's commission and fund management charges. According to the survey, charges on the unit-linked endowment policy have risen 5 per cent, in spite of the fact that full disclosure of the charges was supposed to increase competition and drive down costs.

According to figures from the Association of British Insurers, about five million unit-linked endowments have been sold over the past five years, representing nearly £3 billion of new business to the industry. Fifteen companies refused to participate in the survey, those that refused to provide figures included the life insurance companies of the UK's biggest banks. For example, Barclays Life, Black Horse Life, and Lloyds TSB, were not included.

A spokeswomen for Lloyds TSB said that it had not participated in the survey because of "time constraints". Anyone who arranges their mortgage through Lloyds TSB could be offered one of its unit-linked endowment plans. Barclays said that it had not provided the figures because the survey was targeted at independent financial advisers. It pointed out that it did not sell unit- linked endowments through advisers. Others who would not reveal their figures included Century, GAN Life, United and Consolidated Life.

Other high charging offices include Guardian Financial, formerly GRE, which used to provide savings plans for borrowers with the Nationwide Building Society. Charges on Guardian policies swallow up 30 per cent of premiums. Allied Dunbar and Abbey Life, both of which run large salesforces, also have high costs — again about a third of the premiums are swallowed up by charges.

Guardian pointed out that it no longer offered the product, simply because its high charges would make it impossible to sell through independent financial advisers. It did admit that it had 18,000 Freedom plans in force.

Apart from the Equitable, other cheap policies also came from Halifax Life, the wholly owned life insurance company of the Halifax, the UK's biggest lender. Scottish Widows, Abbey National Life, Sun Life and Scottish Amicable also offered some of the lower charging savings plans. According to the survey, the top estimated maturity value from Equitable Life would be £72,368, while the lowest estimated maturity value is from Albany Life with just £54,523.

John Jenkins, an actuary with KPMG, which helped to carry out the survey pointed out that it was not clear whether these types of endowments would be on course to pay off loans as they were intended. He said: "Unit linked companies tend to be better at keeping their savers under regular review."

The survey also looked at the performance of unit-linked pension plans. According to figures from the ABI, sales of unit-linked pensions are on the increase. £1.2 billion of single-premium unit linked pensions were sold in the first six months of this year alone.

The lowest charging products were from Skandia Life, Equitable Life, Britannia Life, Scottish Equitable, Norwich Union and Rothschild Asset Management.

The survey also compared different unit-linked savings policies on the amount they repaid to investors if they were surrendered after three years and after 10 years. They were also rated on their maturity values. Again Equitable Life scored highly with an A+A+A+ rating, while Allied Dunbar achieved only a C-C-C.

Mis-selling head count set to climb

The Government revealed this week that a further 1.5 million people could have been mis-sold a personal pension. Work on finding these people, who are in addition to the 600,000 that have already been highlighted, has not even started. Helen Liddell, economic secretary to the Treasury, hinted this week that she would expect the companies to start trying to find these 1.5 million as soon as they had dealt with the 600,000 priority cases.

She pointed out that many in the non-priority category were probably not even aware that they could be victims of mis-selling and that many were young people and those on short-term employment contracts who felt they were being financially prudent by taking out a pension. The companies have not yet been ordered by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief city watchdog, to carry out a review of these cases.

An SIB spokeswoman said: "We wanted to try and sort out the priority cases first." The companies guilty of mis-selling will look at non-priority cases even though they are not yet under regulatory pressure to do so.

You could be one of these 1.5 million if you are under 35 and took out a personal pension rather than joining a company scheme, or if you are under 35 and transferred out of a company scheme to take out a personal pension.

If you think you have been affected, the quicker you contact the life insurance company or financial adviser who sold you the product, the quicker you will be compensated.

City expects flying start for shares in Northern Rock

First National, the Republic of Ireland's largest society, will come to the market in 18 to 24 months, as predicted by *The Times* in April (Marianne Curphey writes). The 220,000 members will receive windfalls of about £1,800. Those savers and borrowers with First National's UK businesses will not benefit as they are not members of the mutual organisation. First National postal accounts are deposit accounts, without membership rights. Those, however, who followed Weekend Money's advice and opened accounts with the society in the Republic should qualify for windfalls.

Meanwhile 885,000 beneficiaries of the Northern Rock conversion have just 11 days to wait for their payouts. When the business makes its market debut on October 1, the shares could open as high as 420p, yielding members an average windfall of £2,100 each. Insiders say institutions have indicated they are willing to pay between 410p and 420p per share as an opening price. More conservative estimates suggest the shares will begin trading on October 1 at 390p, which would yield members an average £1,900 each from their 500 free shares.

Northern Rock members have until Friday to tell the society what they want done with their shares.

City Index, the bookmakers, were yesterday quoting a price of £3.80 to £3.90 per share, which suggests big pension funds and other institutional buyers expect the price to open higher. This is in spite of the shares of former building societies having languished recently. Halifax, at 725½p, has failed to recover its first-day high of 774p, while Woolwich has fallen from a peak of 368½p on the first day of trading to 325p. Only Alliance & Leicester has grown, ending the week at 667p.

The price predictions come in spite of industry comments that the institutions are sated with the shares of building societies that have converted to banks. Some believe Northern Rock will struggle to excite professional investors. Others point to Northern's aggressive management.

As many as a third of Northern Rock members are likely to sell their windfall shares when it converts next month, according to research by Barclays Stockbrokers.

Over five to ten years, about half of all those members who were given the free shares are likely still to be holding them. Thomas Sheridan, chief executive of Barclays Stockbrokers, points to the Abbey National, which demutualised eight years ago and where half of original shareholders still have shares.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Watchdog's teething problems

PERSONAL INVESTOR

MARTIN WALLER

If you are planning an especially audacious scam to part thousands of the gullible from their money, a new and entirely valueless personal finance product, perhaps, then I have one piece of advice for you — do it now. Or at least have the scam on the market and the money safely stashed in the Lesser Antilles by next spring. The watchdogs that would normally try to prevent you are being brought under the same kennel roof, and they will be spending the next few months snapping at each other.

The new body that will control all aspects of financial regulation has no name — it trades under the ugly acronym NewRo — and until yesterday nowhere to call home. By the end of next month Howard Davies, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England and the man charged with heading the new body, will have found a name. Yesterday NewRo announced it would be inhabiting a swish new office block at Canary Wharf.

A move to this downriver location for eight of the nine constituent parts of the new body — one, the Personal Investment Authority, is already there — will not be universally popular, and some staff will inevitably find this a good reason to leave. But the real problems are more deep-seated.

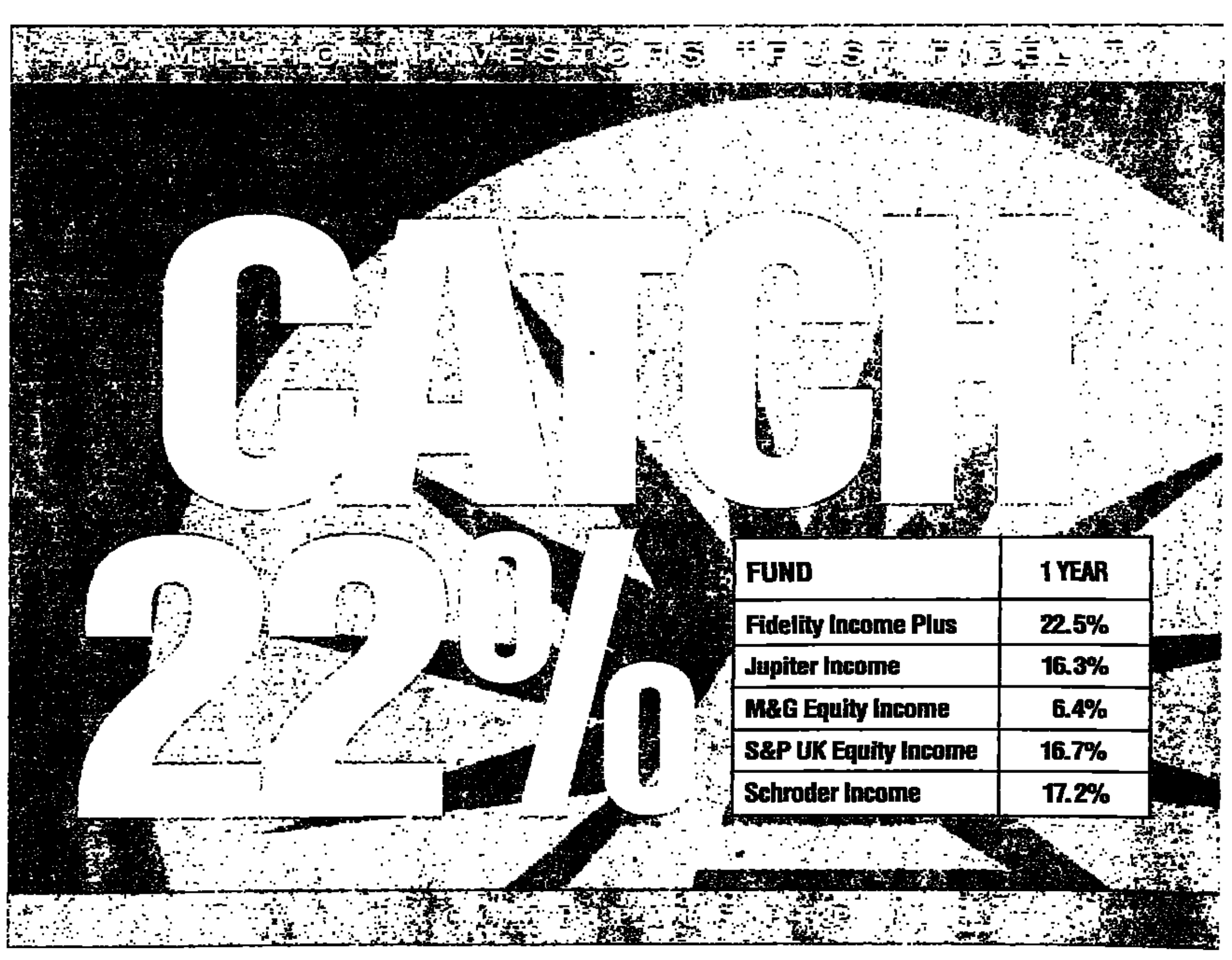
No one is too sure why the present two-tier system of self-regulation in the City was set up in such a clumsy fashion in the late 1980s. No one is defending it, either. It created individual regulators to look after the different providers and types of financial products — one body for life insurance and unit trusts, one for financial intermediaries, and so on. The Bank of England remained in charge of banking supervision and the Stock Exchange ran the stock markets. Riding herd over the regulators was the top tier, the Securities and Investments Board. The results were, perhaps, predictable — turf wars and the shunting around of responsiblities. The consumer got a bad deal; cases such as pensions mis-selling or the collapse of Knight Williams resulted in endless procrastination. And no one, still, has a good word to say for Sir Andrew Large, Mr Davies's predecessor and the SIB's former head.

The decision has already been taken to divide the new body according to regulatory functions, such as supervision and investigation, rather than by business sector. Mr Davies has to bring those nine bodies together as a unitary organisation and decide how this should regulate financial services. Each of the nine has its own management and enjoys considerable autonomy. The suspicion is that each of these managements will spend the next six months jockeying for position and back-stabbing their potential rivals. Or they will decide the game is not worth the candle and, like Colette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, refuse any future position at NewRo. They know there is not going to be room for all of them. Some will already be looking elsewhere.

If you are chairman of one of the nine, they don't need you anyway — one figurehead, Mr Davies, is enough. If you are chief executive, you face effective demotion. So those that decide to stay with NewRo will not necessarily be the best.

There are difficult decisions to be made at NewRo. Funding is one, the size and form of penalties another — the notion now of fining a City mega-institution a couple of hundred thousand pounds is largely discredited, while publicity in the form of "naming and shaming" has been of dubious worth in combating pensions mis-selling. And how heavy should the burden of regulation be, and should City institutions be offered less protection than the retail investor?

Hanging over Mr Davies is the certainty that two or three years down the line the new structure of regulation means all the responsiblity rests with him. Ultimately, the job of super-regulator will end in failure and, probably, resignation. This is a long-term concern, but there are plenty of short-term worries before then.



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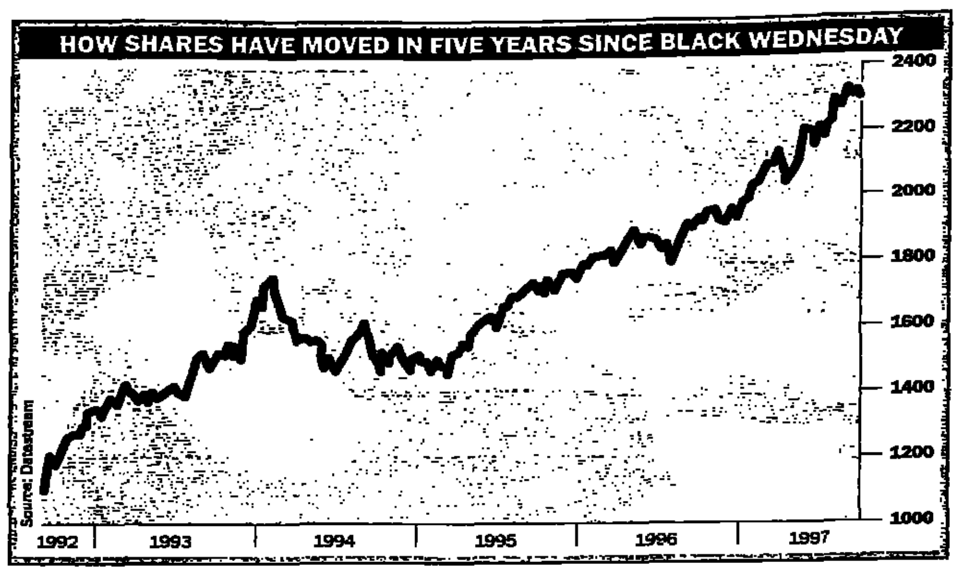
John Givens gives advice on how to choose a stockbroker

From a mini to a Rolls-Royce

HOW SHARES HAVE MOVED IN FIVE YEARS SINCE BLACK WEDNESDAY



Five years since Black Wednesday

THIS is a season of anniversaries for the financial markets. Next month sees the 10th anniversary of Black Monday, October 19, the market crash of 1987. Economists celebrated the fifth anniversary of Black Wednesday, September 16, when Britain withdrew from the exchange-rate mechanism. Since that day, the FT All share index has risen strongly (see left). The anniversary coincided this year with news that Warren Buffett, the guru of small US investors, was switching from stocks to bonds. Investors on both sides of the Atlantic followed him but there was no overall impact on London shares.

INVESTMENT £

A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

Anyone buying or selling shares needs a broker to do the deal for them, whether it involves taking a 5 per cent stake in a leading plc or buying a few hundred shares in a small company. Brokers offer three main services — dealing-only, dealing with advice and full portfolio management. In this, the third part of our series for new investors, we explain the different services each broker provides.

DEALING ONLY

THE cheapest way to buy and sell shares is through a dealing-only or execution-only service. You tell the broker exactly what you want to do, give details of which shares you are buying or selling, the amount and when you want the transaction to take place. The broker acts on your instructions and either send you a bill for the purchase of shares or a cheque from the proceeds of a sale. It is not allowed to give advice on buying or selling.

ADVISORY DEALING

DEALING with advice means a broker talks you through your investment decisions, making you aware of anything that may affect the deal and helping to sort out any paperwork. You may benefit from tips to buy or sell particular shares.

PORTFOLIO SERVICE

INVESTORS with £50,000 or more to play with can enjoy a full portfolio management service which can be either be advisory or discretionary. With advisory portfolio management, a broker makes recommendations about buying or selling shares or other investments but awaits your approval. Disretionary management means he takes investment decisions and deals to achieve your investment aims, reporting regularly on how your portfolio is performing. Portfolio management can be expensive as you will probably be charged commission on each deal and an annual fee.

TELEPHONE DEALING

FOR best value share dealing direct telephone-based brokers are hard to beat. ShareLink, based in Birmingham, is the UK's largest direct-dealing broker, handles one in ten of all share deals on the London Stock Exchange. It will sell up to £500 worth of popular utility shares — through its Easideal postal facility for a minimum fee of £7.50. Sales between £501 and £1,000 are charged at a flat fee of £10, rising to £15 for amounts for £1,001-£2,000 and £25 for deals worth between £2,001 and £5,000. Postal sales above this amount are charged on a sliding percentage scale up to a maximum of £75. The ShareLink dealing-only telephone service has a £20 minimum and a £75 maximum.

The Share Centre, another execution-only broker, will buy privatised company shares or those listed in the FTSE 100 index on your behalf for a minimum fee of just £2.50 or 1 per cent of the value of the transaction, whichever is greater. This means purchases up to £250 attract the minimum fee, although you will also need to pay the 0.5 per cent stamp duty levied by the Government on all share purchases. Purchases of shares outside the FTSE 100 are charged at 1.25 per cent.

For people selling shares, the minimum fee is £7.50 or 1 per cent, whichever is greater, for FTSE 100 shares, and £11.25 or 1.25 per cent for non-FTSE 100 stocks. This week The Share Centre introduced a pay-as-you-go advice service to help people using its execution-only service. It costs £15 a quarter excluding VAT and the telephone. advice costs £1.50 a minute. Another big telephone service is CaterDeal, Cater Allen Bank's broker.

Waters Lunniss, the broking arm of Norwich and Peterborough Building Society offers instant-dealing at any of its seven branches in London, Norwich, Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Nottingham and Peterborough. As long as you have your share certificate and proof of identity you can swop your shares for a cheque within minutes for a 1.65 per cent fee, minimum £25.

NatWest Stockbrokers has instant dealing for up to £10,000 of shares in more than 1,100 stocks. This is available at 280 of its larger branches for a fee of 1.5 per cent, (minimum £20), though the amount involved is debited or credited to the investor's bank account five days later.

OTHER SERVICES

TRADITIONAL brokers such as Greig Middleton, Albert E Sharp, Gerard Vivian Gray, Capel-Cure Myers and Henderson Crosthwaite typically charge commission of about 1.5 per cent — less for larger transactions — subject to a £20-£25 minimum on sales or purchases.

MoneyFacts, the financial statistics publisher, has a fax service for details of companies offering execution-only share-dealing. Tel: 0336 400245. Calls cost 50p a minute and average seven minutes.

The Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers (APCIMS) publishes an investors' guide to brokers and a directory of members, both available free from APCIMS, 112 Middlesex Street, London, E1 7HY.

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هكذا من الاصلاح

Good riddance to toothless watchdogs

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

The deplorable results of the latest survey of endowment savings plans show why reform of investor protection is now vital. We can no longer tolerate a watchdog system that stands by while companies deduct more than a third from each sum invested to cover charges, principally commissions to salesmen.

This way of remunerating middlemen is the least desirable method of assuring the financial wellbeing of the population. Being only human, a salesman obliged to peddle a pension, or be unable to meet his own mortgage, will choose the former.

The hapless customers who pay out for these commissions receive no guarantee of either performance or service. Deluxe level charges result in unsatisfactory returns.

In future, those who sell pensions and other investments to the public should be paid salaries. Independent financial advisers should receive fees.

We challenge those companies who believe that the current arrangements ensure that their policyholders will receive handsome pensions to justify their stance. Otherwise they should change their practices.

Meanwhile, customers of Barclays Life, Black Horse, GAN, Lloyds TSB, Pearl and Royal London should fear for the payouts from their endowments. These household names were among those who did not supply figures for the *Money Marketing* survey.

Businesses that spend hours cajoling customers into expensive long-term commitments claimed that they could not assemble the necessary statistics by the deadline. It is significant that the glorious trio of Barclays Life, GAN and Pearl also feature on the Economic Secretary's list of pension misselling culprits. In view of their unwillingness to co-operate, should we now presume that their charges are even higher than those of the groups who did comply with *Money Marketing's* request? A consumer boycott might be appropriate.

Prime slice

BOTH Sainsbury and Tesco now offer a nourishing 6.5 per cent on balances of £1 or more. Tesco claims that it will be able to maintain its competitive edge. We now wait to see whether the building societies will respond to the challenge. Or whether they will continue to hoodwink their customers by launching new accounts with scrumptious rates for savers with £20,000 plus, leaving those with less than £500 with lean cut returns below the rate of inflation.

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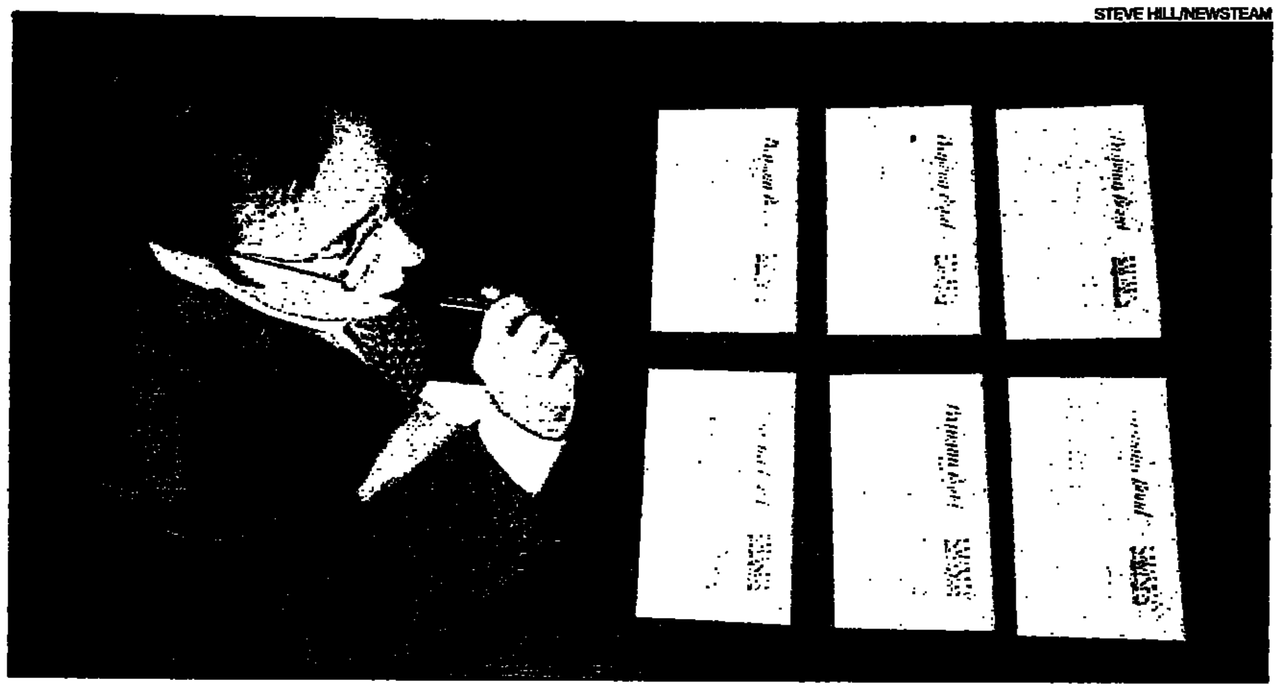


STEVE HILL/NEWSTEAM

And the winner is . . . David Wright's prizes continue with reinvested winnings each month coming up again

In the past few weeks, Weekend Money has had many letters and telephone calls about Ernie's prize payout rate. **Anne Ashworth** reports on what National Savings claims, and what our readers have experienced

Wins go on and on — for some

Ernie has no favourites. Or so say his bosses at National Savings defending themselves against charges from the 23 million Premium Bond holders that the monthly draws are shamelessly manipulated for the benefit of the Exchequer, fat cat Southerners or other most sinister organisations.

Each of the 8.7 billion Premium Bonds has an equal chance of winning a prize in each monthly draw. In November, when the total Ernie payout will be raised by £2 million a month, each bond will have a one-in-19,000 chance of winning any prize.

This means that someone with £1,100 worth of bonds (the typical purchase) can expect the Eletronic Random Number Indicator (aka Ernie) to pay out one prize every 16 months.

Under the new terms, the 100,000 individuals who have the maximum £20,000 Premium Bond holding should expect to receive 13 prizes a year. But, as in the past, individual luck will always defy the statistics. A recent National Savings sample revealed that one lucky £20,000 holder had been received 32 prizes in one year, while another did not get a single cheque.

Alan Ingram, a reader from Glasgow, is one of the disaffected maximum stake holders who trusted Ernie to give them a return rivalling that on other investments. Mr Ingram has won just six prizes over a 12-month period, giving him a return of just 2 per cent on his investment, less than the rate of inflation. His letter to *The Times* brought responses from other maximum and minimum stake holders who had been more fortunate.

Jack Wadd, a £20,000 holder, has had 14 prizes worth £1,850 over a 12-month period. He calculates that this gives him a tax-free return of 9.25 per cent, "equivalent to a gross return of about 12 per cent for a basic-rate taxpayer, or 15.42 per cent for a higher rate taxpayer."

Mr Wadd who lives in Bromley, Kent attributes his success to his habit of chanting his bond numbers out loud to Ernie on the first working day of every month. He believes that Ernie who is based on Lytham St Annes in Lancashire heeds his call.

> 'Only the small sums were paid out, winners of big prizes being non-existent persons'

David Wright, from Derby, has been a Premium Bond enthusiast for 20 years. Throughout the period, he has found that the returns match those of a building society but he considers his £3,500 holding to be an "inexpensive gamble, not an investment".

Over recent months, Ernie has smiled on Mr Wright, giving him six prizes in the year to date, although he has not indulged in chanting or any other special pleading. He won three £50 prizes in the June draw which he immediately used to buy more bonds.

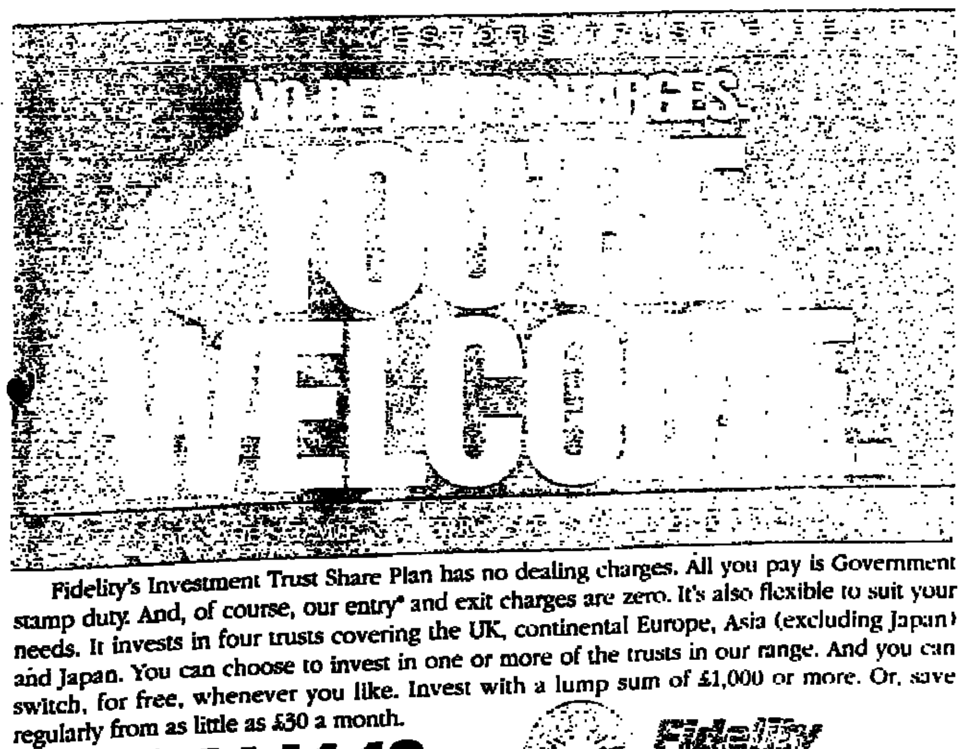
Although there is a month's delay between the purchase of a bond and its entry into the draw, bonds bought with prize money go straight into the next month's draw. This exercice yielded Mr Wright yet another £50 prize which he put into more bonds. The result? Another £50 prize.

According to National Savings, the chance of a bond winning a £50 prize in its first eligible draw is one-in-455. The chance of this happening in two consecutive draws is one in-207,000. The chance of a third £50 win is 103,000.

Mr Wright intends to cash in on his winning streak by buying more bonds in time for the November draw.

Other readers do not see Ernie as a munificient Lancastrian but as the front man in a Government misinformation campaign. An Edinburgh holder challenged bank managers to reveal whether they had recently seen any large Premium Bond prizes cheques pass through their branches. He compared the Premium Bond draw to the competition in George Orwell's *1984*, where the prizes paid out were largely imaginary." ... *only small sums were actually paid out, the winners of the big prizes being non-existent persons . . .* "

Letters, page 43



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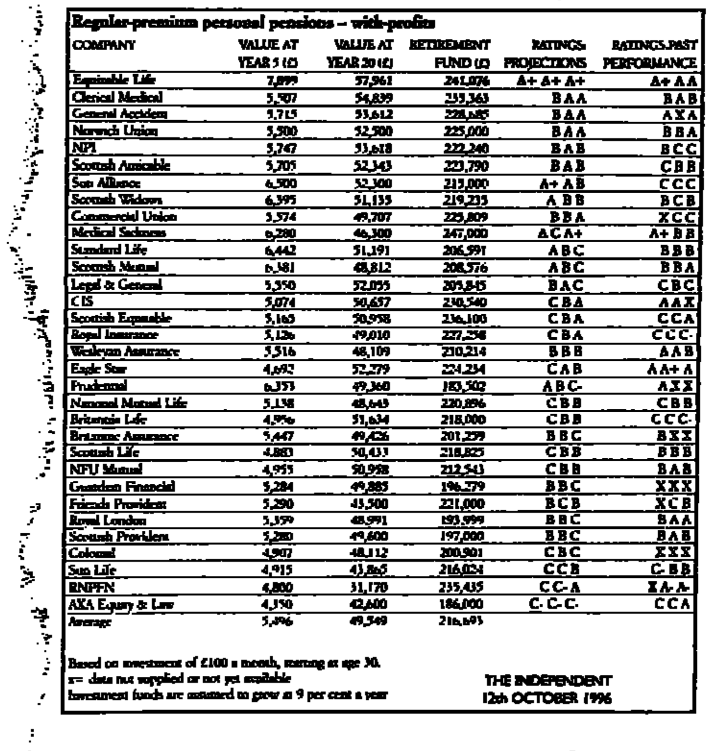
WHO DO THE EXPERTS RATE WHEN IT COMES TO PENSIONS?



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Equitable Life	7,099	57,961	241,076	A+ A+ A+	A+ A A
Clerical Medical	5,507	54,839	233,363	B A A	B A B
General Accident	5,715	53,612	228,685	B A A	A X A
Norwich Union	5,500	52,500	225,000	B A A	B B A
NPI	5,747	53,618	222,240	B A B	B C C
Scottish Amicable	5,705	52,343	223,790	B A B	C B B
Sun Alliance	6,500	52,300	215,000	A+ A B	C C C
Scottish Widows	6,395	51,135	219,235	A B B	B C B
Commercial Union	5,574	49,707	225,809	B B A	X C C
Medical Sickness	6,280	46,300	247,000	A C A+	A+ B B
Standard Life	6,442	51,191	206,591	A B C	B B B
Scottish Mutual	6,381	48,812	208,576	A B C	B B A
Legal & General	5,350	52,055	205,845	B A C	C B C
CIS	5,074	50,657	230,540	C B A	A A X
Scottish Equitable	5,165	50,958	236,100	C B A	C C A
Royal Insurance	5,126	49,010	227,258	C B A	C C C-
Wesleyan Assurance	5,516	48,109	210,214	B B B	A A B
Eagle Star	4,692	52,279	224,234	C A B	A A+ A
Prudential	6,353	49,360	183,502	A B C-	A X X
National Mutual Life	5,138	48,643	220,896	C B B	C B B
Britannia Life	4,956	51,634	218,000	C B B	C C C-
Britannic Assurance	5,447	49,426	201,259	B B C	B X X
Scottish Life	4,883	50,433	218,825	C B B	B B B
NFU Mutual	4,955	50,958	212,543	C B B	B A B
Guardian Financial	5,284	49,885	196,279	B B C	X X X
Friends Provident	5,290	43,500	221,000	B C B	X C B
Royal London	5,359	48,991	193,999	B B C	B A A
Scottish Provident	5,280	49,600	197,000	B B C	B A B
Colonial	4,907	48,112	200,901	C B C	X X X
Sun Life	4,915	43,865	216,024	C C B	C- B B
RNPFN	4,800	31,170	235,435	C C- A	X A- A-
AXA Equity & Law	4,350	42,600	186,000	C- C- C-	C C A
Average	5,496	49,549	216,693		

Based on investment of £100 a month, starting at age 30.
x= data not supplied or not yet available
Investment funds are assumed to grow at 9 per cent a year

THE INDEPENDENT
12th OCTOBER 1996

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John Chapman's pioneering methods for comparing performance between companies have been adopted by Money Marketing, the magazine for independent financial intermediaries, which asked actuaries at KPMG to carry out the detailed calculations for each company. Mr Chapman's analysis for The Independent uses Money Marketing's calculations.

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Act now on IHT and don't pay later

The Chancellor may backdate changes to inheritance tax, says **Patrick Collinson**

Tax advisers are warning clients to review urgently their inheritance tax position in an effort to beat proposals expected in a reform document to be published by the Chancellor later this year.

Gordon Brown surprised the tax planning industry when his first post-election Budget in July failed to tighten up on inheritance tax (IHT) avoidance. But tucked away in the details was a promise to publish a consulation document on tax reform before the next Budget. That paper is now expected within the next three months, and tax advisers fear that if the proposals contained within it become law, they will be backdated to the date of the paper's publication, possibly the end of November.

The Labour Party in Opposition made no secret of its hostility to Conservative Governments' progressive relaxation of inheritance taxes, which had made IHT an almost voluntary tax. Although its manifesto made no explicit recommendations, Labour contrasted its approach with "the Tory goal of abolishing capital gains and inheritance tax, at least half the benefit of which will go to the richest 5,000 families in the country".

No one, of course, can be sure what Mr Brown's paper will include (a Treasury spokesman dismissed reports so far as "pure speculation"). But Maurice Fitzpatrick, a taxation specialist at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, said: "I think there will be significant changes and my advice is to plan sooner rather than later. The Revenue can issue a press release in which changes are effective from the date of the release — it doesn't have to wait for the Finance Bill."

Inheritance tax is charged at 40 per cent on everything over £215,000 of an estate. The hardest hit are middle-class homeowners who do not have much in the way of other assets but who have seen the value of their homes rise above the threshold. So how can one avoid IHT but remain within the existing rules?

Some people used the loophole of buying a farm property to avoid inheritance tax

GIFTS

THE commonest form of protecting your assets from IHT is by making gifts while alive through a Potentially Exempt Transfer. Gifts are free from IHT as long as the person making the gift does not die within seven years. Speculation is growing that the Chancellor may revive the old capital transfer tax provisions, abolished in 1986, whereby all gifts be added up and made liable for IHT if the total exceeds the IHT threshold.

Don't imagine, however, that you can give your house to your children and continue to live in it to avoid future IHT. This is treated by the Revenue as a "gift with reservation" and is liable for IHT.

VARIATION

A DEED of variation is a little-known rule that allows a will to be rewritten if all the beneficiaries agree within two years of the death. Tax specialists have used this to revise wills which were poorly written from an IHT perspective.

For example, a man leaves his wife £500,000 in his will. Married partners are exempt from IHT, so no tax is paid. But she then dies a year later, and her children are left the £500,000 — and a £114,000 tax bill on the estate. Using a deed of variation, the will is rewritten so that the £500,000 left to the wife changes to £215,000, and the balance is paid into a discretionary trust for the children. On her death, her estate is not taxed as it does not exceed the IHT threshold, while the children's £285,000 trust faces a tax bill of only £28,000. By rewriting the will, the children cut the inheritance tax bill by £86,000.

John Pottage, tax director at Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, said he would not be surprised if deeds of variation are dealt a blow. "It is like having your cake and eating it," he said. But until then, beneficiaries may continue to exploit the rule, which highlights the importance of maximising use of IHT allowances in writing a will.

PROPERTY

BUSINESS and agricultural property is exempt from IHT. This has led to people buying farms to escape tax, and at the least Labour is expected to cut the relief, taking it from 100 per cent to, say, 50 per cent. Sidestepping a cut in relief will be difficult. Mr Pottage said: "As with potential changes to the rules on gifts, accelerate gifts of such assets."

PENSIONS

Most people have a pension in the form of an annuity. Commonly, when an annuitant dies, the wife or husband will receive 50 per cent of the annuity, but on his or her death, the annuity disappears and cannot be passed on to the children. However, if a pensioner chooses the new (and complex) option of an income drawdown, then the pension can be passed on to heirs if the pensioner dies before 75.

Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, the financial adviser, said: "Part of a pension fund can be written under trust for the benefit of children, allowing the money to be isolated from IHT." There is speculation that the Chancellor will clamp down hard on the use of trusts to avoid tax but Mr Kohn, a member of the Personal Investment Authority board, said: "Offshore trusts and bonds are the types of things I expect to come under scrutiny. But there are plenty of trusts for legitimate transactions which should survive."

Inheritance tax raises just 0.5 per cent of government income. There have been hints of a radical overhaul and the Institute of Fiscal Studies expects a clampdown, underlining the message that if you are planning to make a gift to your children, do it now rather than later.

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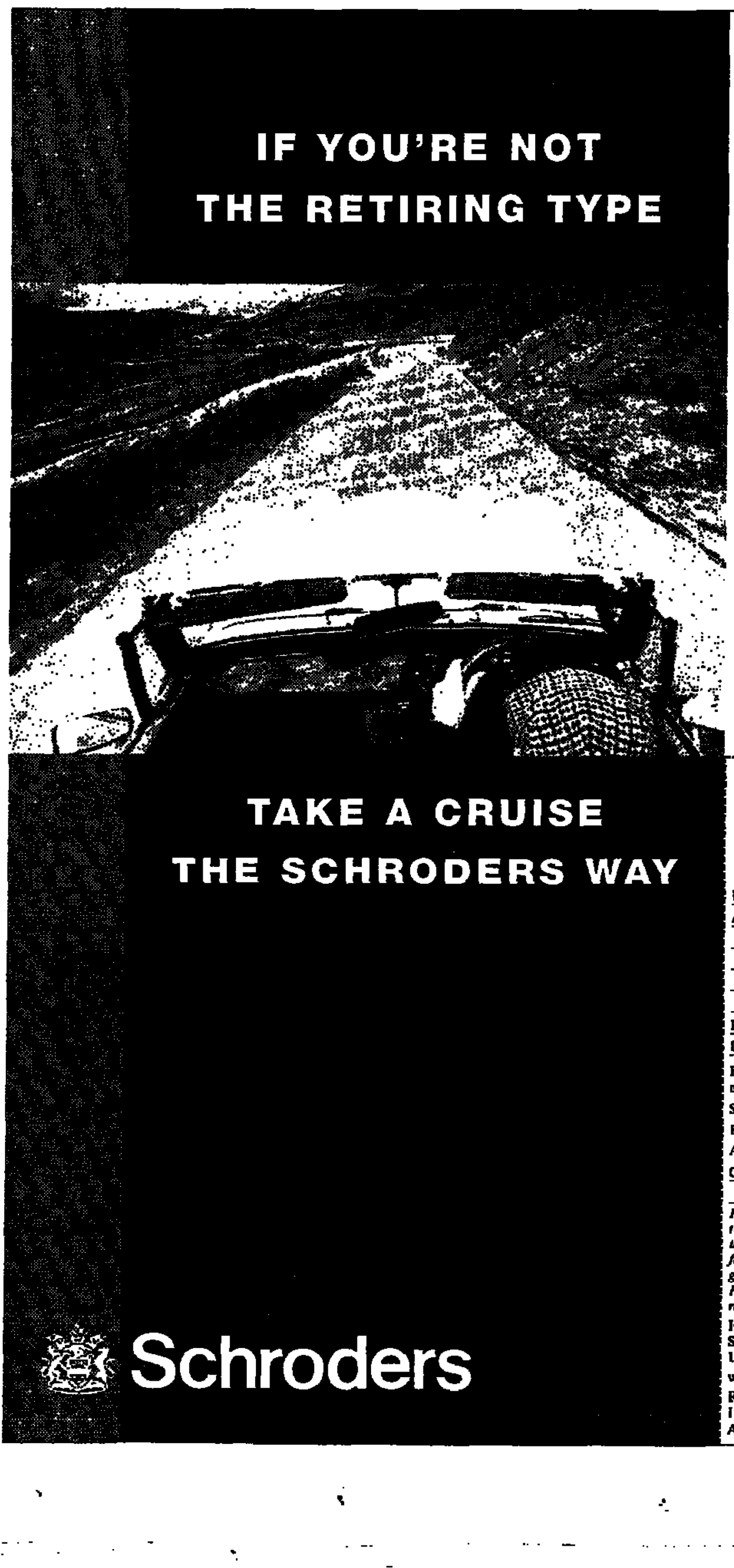
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Income and a solid guarantee

Patrick Collinson on a specialist product with excellent results

Put £10.000 into the Halifax and and the best it can guarantee is a return of £12,672 in four years. Put the same amount in a guaranteed-income bond and the return is £500 higher. Guaranteed-income bonds (Gibs)are the forgotten corner of the UK savings market, yet one specialist said they offer "far and above what you can get in a building society".

One reason for their relative obscurity is that only a few companies offer Gibs, and because they pay very little commission (usually £50 or less), financial advisers are not very interested in selling them. Another reason is the severe penalties if you want to withdraw money before the end of the specified term. Colin Jackson, of Baronworth Investment Services, a Gib specialist, gave a warning: "This has to be money that you don't need, not money you might need."

Here we explain the advantages and disadvantages of Gibs.

Q What exactly is a guaranteed-income bond?

A A Gib is a lump-sum investment (the standard minimum is £1,000) which provides a regular, guaranteed fixed income over a period chosen by the investor, from one to five years. At the end of the period, the investor receives his capital back.

Q What interest rate do the bonds offer?

A Rates rise and fall, influenced by movements in base rates and expectations about future interest rates. According to *Moneyfacts*, rates are currently about 6 per cent for investments over one year, rising to 7 per cent per year if the money is locked away for 4-5 years. The more invested, the higher the rate.

Q How often are interest payments made?

A Depositors can choose monthly or annual payments, or the interest can be rolled up in the fund. Interest rates paid on monthly distribution is slightly less than if interest is taken annually.

Q How can the bonds offer more than a building society or bank deposit?

A Gibs are offered by specialist life insurance companies, usually subsidiaries of foreign-owned companies, with start-up costs higher than initial income, allowing them to defer tax and offer higher rates. The Government is reviewing policyholder taxation, but according to the Association of British Insurers, existing contracts will almost certainly be honoured.

Q How much do I pay in fees and commission?

A Like building societies, the charges are taken into account in the interest rate offered. Standard commission is 0.5 per cent. Chartwell Investment Management (01225 446556) rebates commission to enhance returns, though it charges a £25 fee.

Q How secure is the income and capital?

A The insurance company is the guarantor, but it is backed by third-party underwriting. For example, a recent GE Financial Services Gib was backed by an HSBC bond. GE Financial Services is part of General Electric, the world's largest company, and HSBC is the largest quoted bank in the United Kingdom. In the event of both of these guarantors failing, a highly unlikely scenario, then the Gib holder is protected by the Policyholders Protection Act, which will repay 90 per cent of the investment.

Q Do I pay tax on the income from a Gib?

A Not if you pay basic-rate tax, which is one of the Gib's main advantages. However, higher-rate taxpayers must declare the income and may be liable for tax.

Q What happens if I am a non-taxpayer?

A Bad news. Non-taxpayers cannot reclaim the basic-rate tax that is paid by the life company, making Gibs less attractive than building society accounts.

Q What happens if I want to withdraw the money before the end of the predetermined period?

A You may not get back the full amount invested. The sum repaid varies from one provider to another, but is usually 5-10 per cent less than the original investment.

Q If I die before the Gib matures, what happens?

A The capital will be returned, says Chase de Vere Investments, but the interest repaid will depend on the company's terms.

Q Are there any other disadvantages to Gibs?

A Amanda Davidson of Holden Meehan, the financial adviser, gave warning: "You can be stuck in a rate that is uncompetitive as interest rates rise. It can be like getting caught in the wrong fixed-rate mortgage. However, I do have a client who fixed into a Gib at 11 per cent a few years ago, and she's delighted."

Q Which companies currently market Gibs?

A The leading companies in the Gib market are AIG Life, GE Financial Assurance and Pinnacle Insurance. Several firms of independent financial advisers specialise in finding the best Gib, such as Baronworth (0181 518 1218), Chamberlin de Broe (0171 434 4222) and Chase de Vere Investments (0171 404 5766).

For guaranteed-income bond prices, see page 38

ANDRÉ CAMARA

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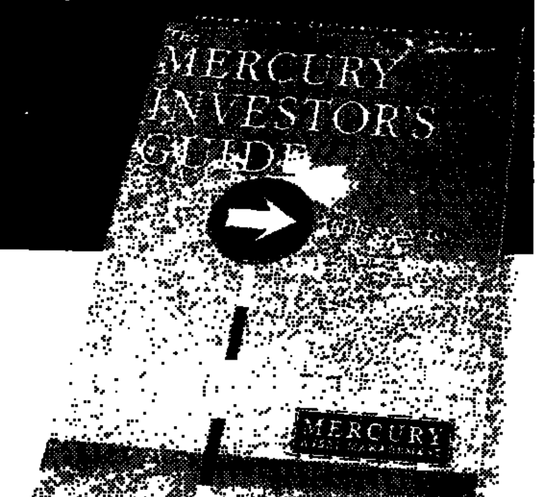

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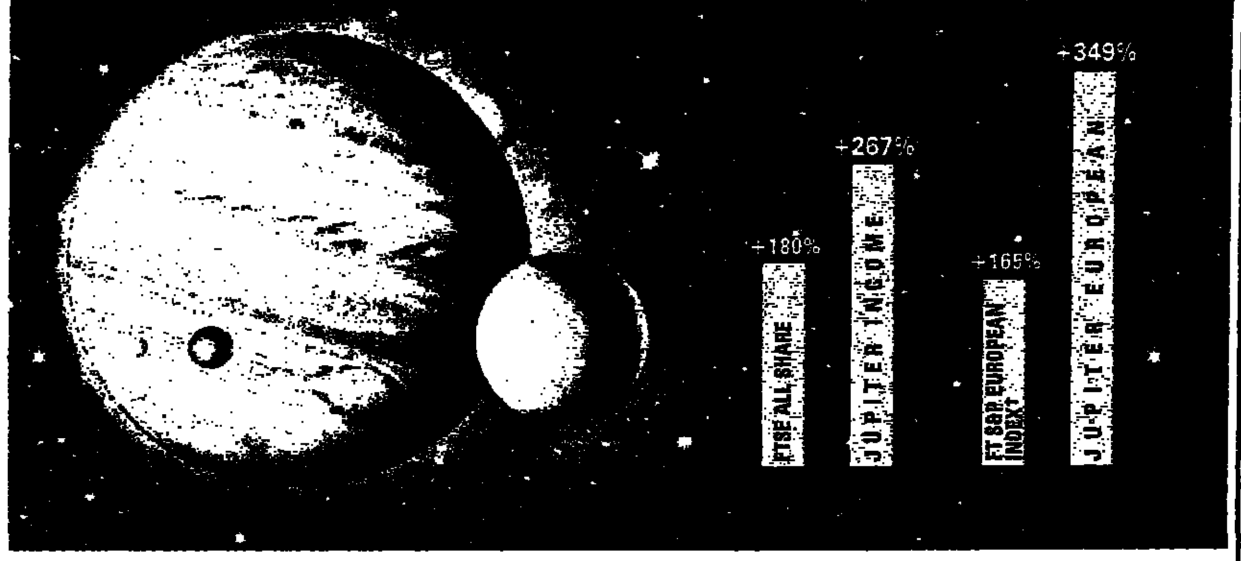
STARS OVER THEIR FIRST 10 YEARS



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offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal.

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.
Please send me further information on: The Jupiter Income/European Funds ☐ The Jupiter PEP ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐

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MAM to make a move on discount

Mercury Asset Management announced this week that it was embarking on a second bid to boost the share price of its Mercury European Privatisation Trust by buying back up to 15 per cent of the fund's shares. The trust has come under the spotlight because in spite of purchasing 67.3 million MEPT shares since January last year, the trust's share price still lags behind the full value of its assets.

At present, shares in the £930 million trust are still at a 13 per cent discount to net asset value. Yesterday shares in the trust closed at 137¼ p. Lough Callahan, managing director of Mercury Investment Trusts, said the outlook for European privatisations "continues to be favourable".

Unlike the first share buy-back programme, MEPT will not be issuing preference shares to fund the buy-back of ordinary shares but will raise the cash through borrowings or by selling securities in the portfolio. The cash needed for the redemption of the preference shares will be raised through borrowings, so maintaining MEPT's gearing of 8 per cent of net assets.

The board's current policy is to limit borrowings to no more than 15 per cent of net assets. An extraordinary general meeting to approve the proposals will be held on October 14. The share price rose 4p on Thursday when the move was announced. Mercury's buy-back is the latest in a series of moves by investment trusts to try to cut discounts.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Gavin Lumsden explains why Barclays has changed its strategy

Let the computer take the strain

Aircraft cross the Atlantic using a computer program with occasional tweaks by the pilot. Barclays will run its trusts this way

For some people life begins at 40, for others it is time for a midlife crisis. Which camp Barclays falls into is something the bank's 550,000 unit trust holders can decide on in the months to come.

Having run unit trusts since 1957, Barclays noticed it had developed a bit of a paunch in the form of 29 separate funds. This week the bank announced it was going on a diet, renaming the operation Barclays Funds and reducing the range to 11 unit trusts. The move has surprised some observers, as the performance of the trusts has been, in some cases, above average. Jason Hollands of BESt Investment said: "The trusts have done better than their high street competition. Some, such as Special Situations, have performed rather well."

None of the existing Barclays funds will actually disappear, although they will all lose their Unicorn brand tag. Instead, from the end of this month, new branch customers will be offered a simpler choice of three investment portfolios: income, growth, and growth and income, a combination of both. The last two will be funds investing in five to ten of Barclays's old unit trusts. This will give investors a large spread of investments without having to do any work selecting the funds. Minimum investment will be a £1,000 lump sum or £100 a month. All will be available as a Pep with no extra charge.

Managed Growth and Income will be the most conservative option, investing in bonds for income and equities for capital growth. However, it will not take risks and will keep its exposure to either asset class between 40 and 60 per cent.

Managed Growth will take a slightly riskier approach by targeting Barclays capital growth funds investing in the UK, Europe, US and Far East. The Income portfolio will not invest in other funds, but like Bugbit, the popular but unfortunately named Barclays corporate-bond Pep, will buy bonds and debt securities from international companies.

TRUST WATCH

In spite of the extra simplicity, Barclays is not cutting its management charges. The growth and growth and income funds will take 5.25 per cent fee off every contribution plus an annual charge of 1.5 per cent of the value of the holdings. Managed Income is cheaper, taking 3.25 per cent as an initial charge and 0.75 per cent as its annual fee. There will be a similar level of charges on the eight Barclays Global Investors funds, which are only available through financial advisers.

Simultaneously the bank unveiled the new streamlined investment strategy that is supposed to keep these funds fit and their performance healthy. Puzzlingly entitled "advanced active", the new approach has led Barclays to dispense with the services of traditional active fund managers whose stockpicking skills proved far too erratic. In their place Barclays is employing teams of analysts to sit behind ranks of computers and scour the world's stock markets.

Many of these tecchies come from Wells Fargo, the US fund manager which Barclays bought last year. Wells Fargo pioneered the concept of index tracking in the 1970s. It argued that stock markets had become so efficient in disseminating information to investors that fund managers could no longer consistently beat the market through superior stockpicking. Stockpickers were as likely to pick duff companies as well-run corporations. Wells Fargo's solution was to find ways of replicating indices such as the FTSE 100 which measure performance of stock markets.

Twenty years later, index tracking has found universal acceptance. However, Wells Fargo, now Barclays Global Investors, currently believes markets can be inefficient at times. Under advanced active it uses the skills it gained in index tracking to search for information no one else has spotted.

It looks for three types of signals before deciding to buy a stock. On top of the traditional means of assessing a company's value, Barclays keeps an eye on what analysts say. It has noticed that stocks tend to perform well in the months after a strong rerating, even if it is just one analyst who has become optimistic. This is because a herd instinct among analysts means that where one person suddenly takes the lead the others are sure to follow. Thirdly, it scrutinises the trading activities of directors. Directors buying shares in their own company demonstrate confidence and can be a useful signal of the long-term direction.

Don Luskin, head of Barclays mutual funds, says the purpose of all the number-crunching is to assess every angle of an investment and to reduce risk as much as possible. "Active managers can make bets which may pay off in the long run, but in the meantime may get over-involved in a particular sector or country even when they didn't want to. The idea is to think carefully about the bets you want to do." Spoken like a true middle-aged man.

So far the bets appear to have paid off. One UK pension fund run on the Barclays approach achieved an accumulated return of 13.8 per cent, 3 per cent more than the FTSE All-share index and 50 per cent more than its rivals.

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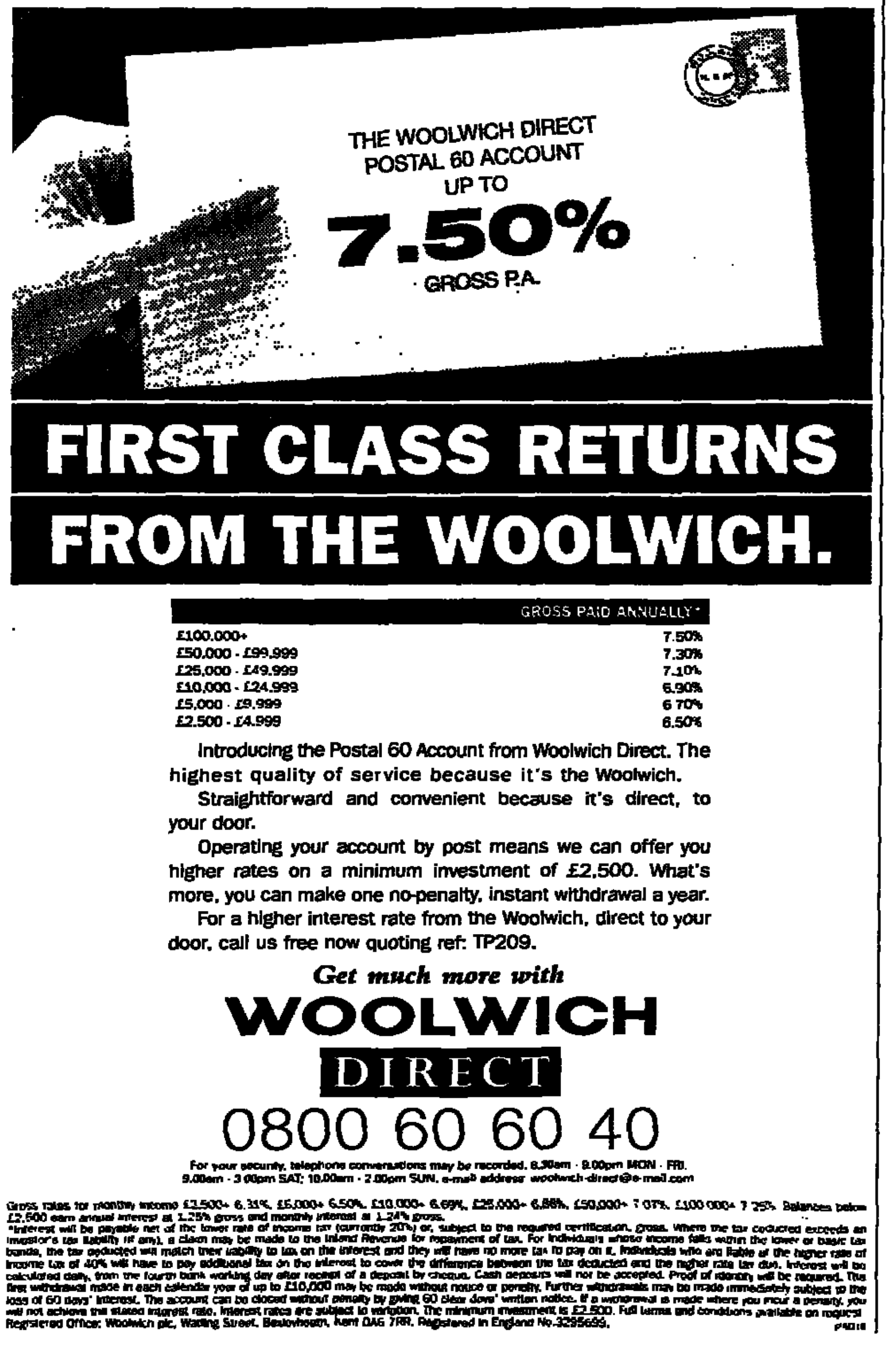
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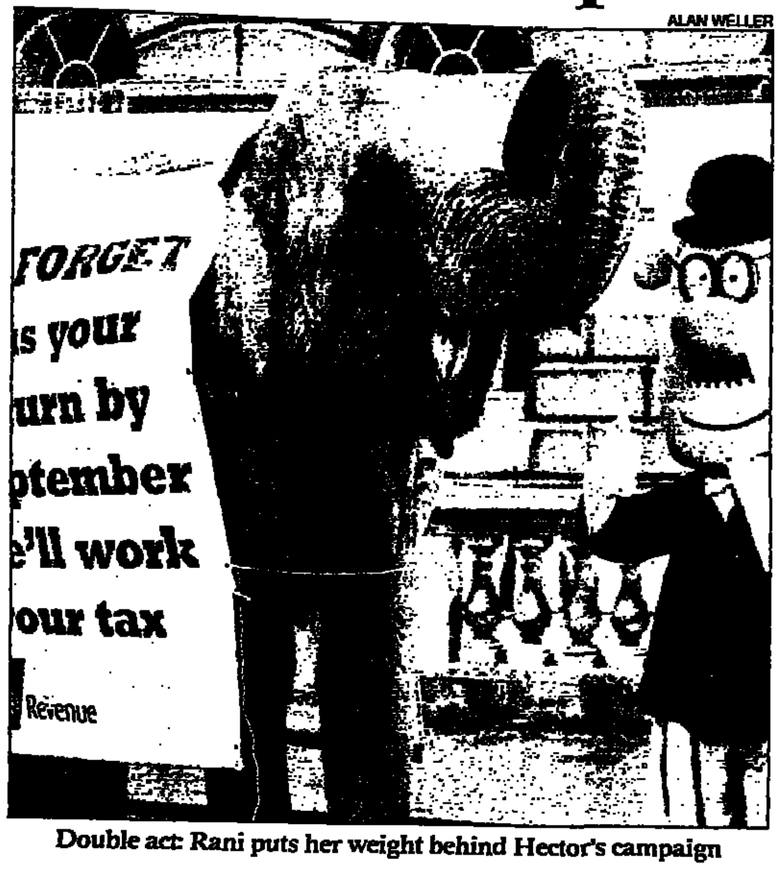
Mammoth problem for Revenue



ALAN WELLER

Double act: Rani puts her weight behind Hector's campaign

Rani, a 25-year-old elephant, and Hector, the tax inspector have had a busy week. The former was displayed in the car park of Somerset House, as an aide memoire, for those who have forgotten to send off their self-assessment forms, while the TV and radio appearances of the latter have reached a climax, with the bowler-hatted cartoon character trying to cajole laggards into meeting the deadline of the end of this month. Beer drinkers, commuters and anyone who uses the post will also be blitzed with messages reminding them of the end of the month deadline.

More than three million people have yet to send off their self-assessment forms with only ten days to go. Those who fail to get their forms in on time will have to work out their own tax, and must return the forms by the end of January next year.

Failure to meet this second deadline will result in instant £100 fines by the Revenue. Even if only 100,000 fail to meet this second deadline, then the Revenue could stand to make about £10 million.

The Revenue is already charging 8.5 per cent interest to those who missed paying the first half of their 1996-97 tax liability by the end of January this year. About 100,000 failed to make this payment. Even if the "average payment on account" due from these 100,000 was £1,000, the Revenue could stand to make £8.5 million in interest on the outstanding £100 million over the year. Mintel, the independent research group, believes that the Government could reap as much as £1 billion in penalties from taxpayers under the new self-assessment rules.

The Revenue is hoping that 4.8 million people from a total of 8.5 million will meet this month's deadline. Many accountants feel that this estimate may be a little optimistic. By the middle of this week, only 3.3 million had sent their forms off to the Revenue, leaving a total of 1.5 million to deal with their forms in the next few days.

John Whiting, head of personal taxation at Price Waterhouse, said: "They are expecting quite a lot of people to send their forms off in the next two weeks."

The Revenue claims that only about 6 per cent of the forms were filled in incorrectly, although it admitted that it had received 375,000 calls on its helpline since April.

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Tesco serves up a tasty 6.5%

Karen Zagor says the new Tesco account should make banks and societies look at their paltry rates

The extremely attractive rates offered by Tesco's new savings account, launched this week, and Sainsbury's existing account are putting the building societies and banks to shame.

From Monday, customers will be able to set up a Tesco savings account which, like the Sainsbury's account, offers a rate of 6.5 per cent gross on deposits of as low as £1. Those who want a monthly income can earn 6.31 per cent. The only disadvantage of the account is a 50p fee for every withdrawal, if you exceed six withdrawals in each quarter.

Tesco says that it guarantees that its interest rates will beat the average offered on the leading high street instant-access accounts, including Abbey National, Barclays Instant Savers, Barclays Instant Savings, Halifax Liquid Gold, Nationwide Cash Builder and Woolwich Prime Gold.

This should not be difficult. As *The Times* reported earlier this month, most of the high street banks are paying negative real rates of interest on balances below £500. The banks and building societies can, and should, do better.

Base rates have risen four times since May, and mortgage rates have followed. Yet among big building societies, Nationwide pays just 1.25 per cent gross on its Cashbuilder account on balances below £500, Bradford & Bingley pays 1.55 per cent on a similar deposit and Britannia pays a paltry 0.1 per cent.

The high street banks are not much better. Savers can expect to garner just 1.8 per cent gross on less than £500 in an Abbey National Instant Saver account or 1.25 per cent with a Halifax Liquid Gold account. Banks and building societies are counting on inertia preventing them from losing thousands of existing customers who could do better by moving their accounts elsewhere. Barclays has angered several Times readers by paying better rates on its new Instant Savings account than on its Prime account.

Financial institutions may now have an obligation to warn customers when an account becomes obsolete, but few institutions feel it is incumbant upon themselves to notify customers about better products, even when those products are their own. One *Times* reader, recently closed a Barclays Prime Account after discovering, that Barclays paid better rates on its newer Instant Savings account.

Savers have every right to be angry. A reader in Sussex has been corresponding with the Yorkshire Building Society for six months about the low interest rate on his Golden Key Account. "The observations made by the society indicate a lack of understanding by junior staff and an underestimation of customer awareness," he writes. "The society claims that there has been no 'deliberate' detuning although it states one of the factors considered when setting rates is the rates other societies are offering, and this was the reason rates were reduced twice in 1993 without an accompanying fall in either base rates or the society's mortage rate!"

Meanwhile, Tesco is likely to win more store customers with its new account. In addition to 24-hour telephone banking, the account allows customers to pay and withdraw cash at the supermarket checkout till. Customers will also be able to pay in cheques by post and set up standing orders and direct debits.

The account comes with a savings card to use on Royal Bank of Scotland and Tesco cash machines. From November, the card will also work with Link network machines. Customers can pick up a leaflet to set up an account at any Tesco store from Monday. Those who open an account before December 31 and maintain an average balance of £500 for the first three months will receive a bonus of 1,000 Clubcard shopping points.

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In sickness and in health

John Givens assesses the potential for growth of private medical cover

Employers could soon be under pressure to offer long-term sickness insurance as part of salary packages after last week's announcement that the Government is considering asking people to take out private cover to provide an income if they are too ill to work.

The Social Security Advisory Committee is pushing for a reform of sickness benefits and says long-term sickness insurance should be made compulsory to help to ease the UK's £23 billion-a-year disability benefit bill.

But with the cost of an average income protection policy standing at around £600 a year the likelihood is employees will ask their companies to set up group insurance schemes which work out cheaper per head than individual policies.

If the Government presses ahead with its plans, demand for private health insurance (PHI) policies is expected to boom and with 60 per cent of people covered by PHI being in group schemes insurers expect a deluge of inquiries from firms wanting to take out policies, perhaps with the employees footing the bill.

The Times has highlighted the various problems that can arise with group PHI schemes. Employees have no redress against an insurer if their claims are rejected, as the contract is with the employer, not the individual. Many who thought themselves covered by UNUM, the largest PHI provider have found their claims rejected and have now banded together in an action group.

John Sharp, the group's leader, points out that PHI is not regulated, unlike other insurance. He said: "If the Government wishes to replace disability benefits with PHI, then the market must come under the aegis of the investor watchdogs." The employee has no rights to refer the case to the insurance ombudsman, the government body which mediates in insurance disputes, as the PHI contract is between the insurer and the company buying the policy.

People with individual cover, however, can complain to the ombudsman if they believe their case for benefit has been unfairly rejected.

Permanent health insurance covers an individual if they cannot work because of long-term illness, disability or injury and is designed to pay a percentage of the claimant's normal monthly income — typically 50 or 60 per cent — until the insured can return to work or until the term of the policy lapses, whichever comes first.

Policies have a predetermined deferred period which sets out how long the policyholder needs to be unable to work before the monthly benefit begins and PHI providers usually give quotes based on one, three, six or 12 months, with premiums reducing the longer the deferred period chosen. Monthly premiums differ widely from company to company and depend on age, state of health, occupation and whether the benefits are fixed or increased every year in line with inflation.

As a rule of thumb a man aged 30 next birthday wanting to insure half of a £25,000 a year salary until aged 60 would pay monthly premiums of £51.23 for a policy from Allied Dunbar with a deferred period of one month, while a 50-year-old would be charged £128.73 a month for the same cover

However, many larger companies pay long-term sick employees full salary for up to the first six months of illness, which means PHI cover with a 26-week deferred period would be sufficient, reducing premiums to £12.73 a month for the 30-year-old and £34.73 for the man aged 50.

Direct comparisons between the cost of individual PHI policies and group schemes are difficult because an underwriter assesses all a person's cirumstances for one-off cover whereas group rates are based on averages. What is certain is that a group scheme supplied by an employer considerably cuts the premium cost per person.

According to Graham Clark, business development actuary with Swiss Life, most group PHI schemes are based on an average age of 40 and the average premium per worker is about 1 per cent of salary. This means the 50-year-old man earning £25,000 a year would get income protection cover for around £20 a month for a policy with a 26-week deferred period, a sizeable saving on the £34.73 he would need to pay for individual insurance.

Most workers who have group PHI schemes at the moment are given the insurance as part of a benefits package with the cost being picked up by their employer, which is allowed to treat premiums as a business expense and offset them against corporation tax.

Employees do not have to pay tax on PHI premiums as a benefit in kind, although money paid out from the policy is treated as salary and taxed at source after the weekly state disability benefit of £55.70 is deducted.

Mr Clark, whose company took more than £25 million from its 2,000 group PHI policies in 1996, estimates joining a firm's scheme can cut at least a quarter off the cost of individual cover. He said: "With group schemes the insurer saves on administration and commission costs." In spite of this, there are still claims that PHI is a costly and relatively unknown product.

Philip Smith, associate director of Heath Consulting of London, which advises companies on employee benefits, said: "Most employees who have group permanent health insurance probably don't realise it and there is a great tendancy for people to confuse PHI with private medical insurance. It is also quite expensive, particularly for firms with manual workers."

"Some insurers refuse to quote for blue-collar workers because statistics show they become ill more often than white-collar office workers and are more likely to have an accident and die younger, although this is changing slightly with the increase in the number of stress-related illnesses."

Although the PHI market in Britain took £231 million in premiums in 1996, Mr Smith says the trend is for companies to try to reduce PHI costs.

"Premiums are going up as the insurers' claims experience hasn't been too good over the past two years. Some of the bigger companies are paying hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in PHI premiums and many are trying to reduce their costs rather than provide benefits, and I would say most companies not already offering group PHI are happy to keep it that way."

Although most of Britain's top companies offer substantial benefits packages to workers few give PHI because it is often cheaper to continue to pay salaries to the long-term sick rather than take on the expense of PHI.

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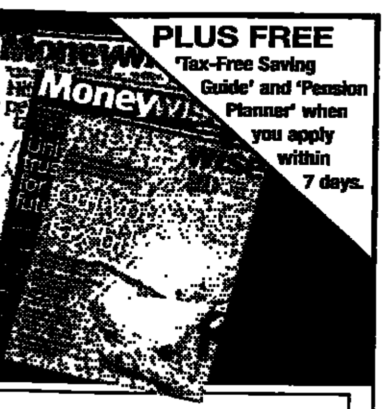

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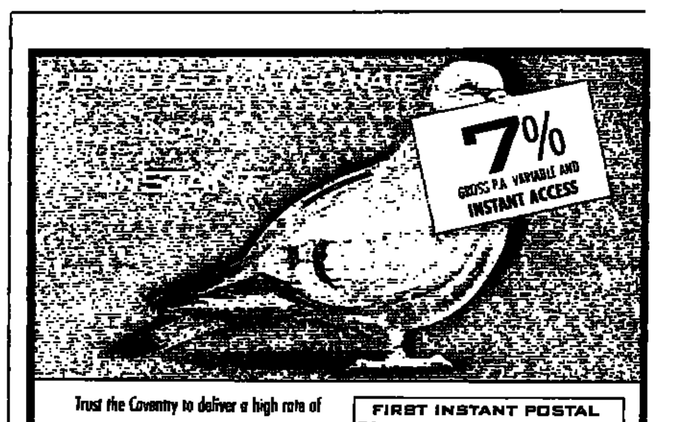

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Conal Gregory takes a walk around the garden

Why not splash out on an antique fountain?

The British love of gardening has branched out into a passion for garden statuary. Collectors are harking back to the 18th century when a garden was considered incomplete without its complement of classical statues, urns and fountains. We report on the trends and prices in this growing market in the latest of our series on collectables.

Among garden statuary collectors, antique benches, fountains, figures and sundials are currently some of the most appealing items. But there are also buyers for gnomes. Dolf Sweerts de Landas, of Dunsborough Park, near Ripley, Surrey, one of the leading dealers in the field, currently has on sale an early 20th century gnome, modelled on Sir Geoffrey Hudson, a courtier of Charles II.

There is considerable demand for white marble figures. Christie's, the fine art house, sold several 19th century examples in February. Figures of Minerva and Athene made £23,000, against as estimate £15,000-£20,000) while four Italian marble statues of Pandora, Hebe, Flora and Venus fetched £100,500, three times the estimate.

If your pocket does not stretch to marble, then artificial limestone is cheaper. Mr Sweerts de Landas believes that statuary by Austin & Seeley is undervalued. Made in artificial limestone from 1836 onwards, it can be found at country sales.

Sundials are also very much sought after today. Bonhams, the auction house, sold a George III bronze circular plate dated 1798 and signed S. Peacock for £1,150 in May against an estimate of £600-£800. In March it sold a Scottish sandstone sundial pedestal from the late 19th century in the style of the Arts and Crafts movement, for £414. Next Thursday Bonhams will offer a 1705 bronze plate, calibrated with the hours, minutes and compass points, on a composition stone support, estimated at £1,700-£2,000.

But before you rush to adorn your lawns with pieces from any era, you must be prepared to make another investment in 20th century security. Garden statuary enthusiasts must limit access to their plots and fit their pieces with radio alarms which are activated when the statue is shaken.

Some equip their garden gates with mercury-tilt switches connected to transmitters within the house. Other collectors install vibration sensors in their lawns. Besides keeping thieves at bay, you must also keep an eye out for fakes. Watch for items that are uniformally discoloured by water. It probably means a modern piece that has been placed in salt or seawater to look artificially old.

Avoiding the counterfeit, you should go for top quality and rare patterns, wherever possible, checking the item in one of the design catalogues, such as J.P. White, Austin & Seeley, Doulton and Val D'Osne. The classic garden statuary textbooks are *Garden Ornament* by Gertrude Jekyll (reproduced by the Antique Collectors Club £35) and *Antiques from the Garden* by Alistair Morris (Garden Art Press £25).

Coalbrookdale is a good name to look for in cast-iron seats and fountains from the 1870s. On Tuesday at Billingshurst, its Sussex salesrooms, Sotheby's the auctioneer puts on sale a Coalbrookdale fountain, a shallow bowl supporting a figure of a falconer holding a bird of prey and a duck, supported on three swans, measuring 53in (134cm) high. It is expected to make £3,000, against £1,500-£2,000 five years ago.

The pattern used in a piece can significantly influence the price realised. A year ago Sotheby's sold a Coalbrookdale passion-flower seat for £10,120 but a lily of the valley decoration, which is more often found, fetched only £3,220. The most common is the fern and blackberry design, which made £2,070 — up from £500 five years ago.

Size is also a factor, with smaller pieces preferred, as dealers often sell them to designers to decorate small gardens in town or increasingly for display inside a large conservatory.

Even though antique statuary and garden furniture is most sought after, modern pieces do come under the hammer. Two semi-circular wrought iron sections which join to form a tree seat can be compared: A modern one might make £3,000 while an early 19th century example can sell for almost double. One way to tell is to look for reeded slats, which are usually bevelled today.

Stone seats with good carving — such as sprays of trailing foliage with flowerheads and rope-twist borders — are a rising market. Typically, a 19th century Bath stone example can be £4,000-£5,000, up from £2,000-£3,000 in the early 1990s.

A large 19th century Portland stone seat with mask head and seated lions has jumped from £10,000-£15,000 to £20,000-£25,000 today over the same period.

If the carver is known, the piece commands a distinct premium — such as a half-length figure of the god, Sunna, by Michael Rysbrack (1694-1770), which sold for £133,500 at Christie's last month (estimated at £40,000 to £60,000).

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☐ Leeds & Holbeck Building Society has raised interest rates on its investment accounts by an average of 0.25 per cent, with effect from Tuesday.

☐ A guide has been published by Shelter, the housing charity, informing people of their housing rights and offering answers to the most common housing problems. The *Housing Rights Guide* covers subjects such as choosing a mortgage and becoming a homeowner, dealing with mortgage arrears, the rights of people renting privately and emergency housing help. Available from bookshops, priced £12.95 or direct from Shelter, 88 Old Street, London EC1V 9HU (add £1 to cover postage).

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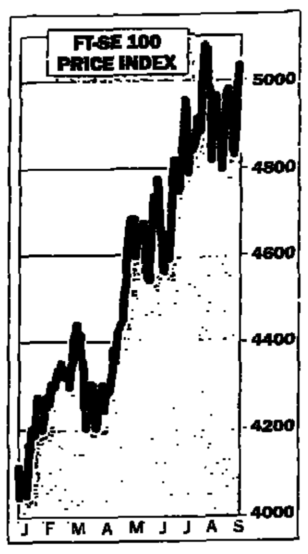

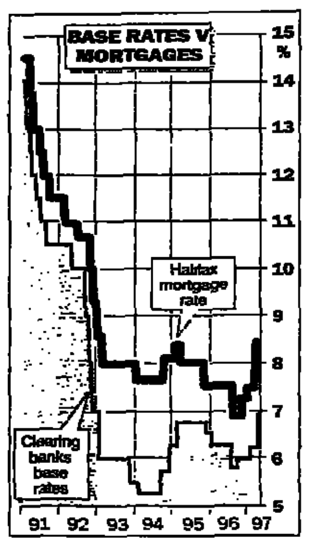

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First Opt Bond₄	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert‡₂₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond₅₆	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
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Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£ 9,359	£10,412	£11,846
Generali ....Level	£ 9,354	£10,372	£11,699
Standard Lf..........Level	£ 9,224	£10,316	£11,732

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£8,697	£ 9,618	£10,885
Prudential ....Level	£8,793	£ 9,603	£10,792
Canada Life ....Level	£8,653	£ 9,471	£10,665
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,609	£ 9,362	£10,464
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,595	£ 9,291	£10,260

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Generali ....Level	£8,225	£8,873	£ 9,763
Prudential ....Level	£8,313	£8,849	£ 9,673
Canada Life ....Level	£8,220	£8,848	£ 9,736
Equitable Lf..........Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£8,225	£8,812	£ 9,643

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 18, 1997

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.90
	5,000	AIG Life	6.24
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.10
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.55
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.65
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.58
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.68
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

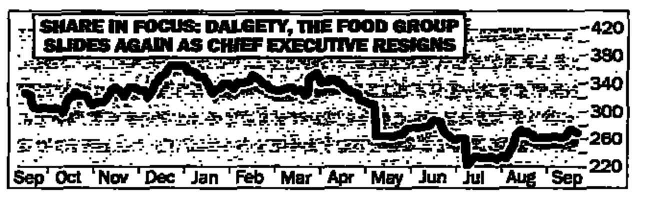
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available. *Limited edition.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	123.73	7.539	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	150.42	7.728	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	168.13	7.732	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	169.69	7.722	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	157.83	7.847	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	149.73	7.847	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	173.62	7.704	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	138.37	7.723	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	163.30	7.731	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	162.47	7.771	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	167.16	7.702	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	119.00	100.00	1,000
First Nat(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	105.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.1.00
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	Disc of 2.10% for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed - 6 mths, 3% disc-6 mths
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	no max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	0.99	to £180k	95	7% disc-6 mths, 1% disc-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.98% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth
Bristol & West 01179 792222	2.90	no max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.35	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed - 6 mths, 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax plc 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, 0.5%oversvr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd (01753 880432).

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	581.40	615.30	+11.60	...
UK Equity	794.10	840.40	+21.90	..
Property	446.60	472.60	+ 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	374.50	396.40	+ 2.50	...
Money	278.20	294.40	+ 0.20	...
International	482.80	510.90	+ 9.00	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	215.80	227.20	+ 2.50	...
Ethical S4	173.60	182.80	+ 1.30	...
International S4	239.40	252.00	+ 0.60	...
Protected Gilt S4	130.70	137.60	+ 0.20	...
Asian Pacific	208.70	219.70	- 5.30	...
European S4	269.40	283.60	+ 9.00	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	434.10	457.00	- 0.20	...
Equity Ser 4	310.60	327.00	+ 6.20	...
Man Ser 4	875.90	922.00	+10.40	.
Conv Ser 4	365.30	384.60	+ 0.40	...
Money Ser 4	364.90	384.20	+ 0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	431.70	454.50	+ 8.50	...
American Ser 4	857.60	902.80	+23.90	..
High Inc Ser 4	961.70	1012.40	+19.50	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	245.30	258.30	- 4.60	...
Japan Ser 4	284.30	299.30	- 9.80	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	2204.70	2320.70	+51.40	...
European Fd Acc	575.90	606.20	+20.70	...
Fixed Int Acc	613.60	645.90	+ 9.80	..
Gtd Money Acc	371.70	391.20	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	843.70	888.10	8.30	...
Intl Fxd Int Acc	380.90	400.90	+ 2.90	...
Japan Fund	245.40	258.30	- 3.10	...
N American Acc	511.50	538.40	+13.50	...
Prop Fd Acc	505.00	531.60	+ 1.40	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1360.60	1432.10	+24.50	...

هكذا من الاهل

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Myths of gambling on Premium Bonds

From Mr Richard Clarke

Sir, Regarding the letter from Alan Ingram (Where are the monthly prizes from my 20,000 Premium Bonds? Weekend Money Letters, September 13). While Mr Ingram has read the National Savings booklet where it indicates that on average a holder of 20,000 bonds could expect to win 13 prizes per year of £50 and £100, nowhere does it indicate that this will happen to every holder of this quantity of bonds. The question of whether a bondholder holds their bonds in blocks is also a red herring and does *not* affect your odds of winning.

Each bondholder effectively gambles the interest that they would earn in a bank or building society with the prospect of winning the top prize of £1 million and many hundreds of thousands of smaller prizes. If a bondholder does not feel he is getting value for money he is always entitled to withdraw his bonds and invest the proceeds elsewhere.

When purchasing Premium Bonds one has to question why it is you do this. If you want a guaranteed gain then Premium Bonds are not for you. If on the other hand you would like a chance at winning the top prize with no loss of capital (other than the reduction by inflation) then Premium Bonds could be the right choice for you.

As always, if you are unsure about investment products, you should consult a professional adviser on these matters to assess the correct choice for your investment goals.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CLARKE,
50 Cardiff Street,
Treorchy,
Rhondda Cynon Taff,
South Wales.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

A study of the UK life insurance industry has revealed that mutual insurance companies are more cost-effective than their quoted rivals. Fox-Pitt Kelton, the broker, finds *Equitable Life* to be the most efficient operator.

☐ The Treasury *announced* on Wednesday that NewRo, the City regulator due to be introduced next year, is to be empowered by a single reform Bill that will sweep away the vast array of financial services legislation. Instead of amending the existing legislation, laws such as the Building Societies Act will, where possible, be repealed and replaced *with a single* Act.

☐ First National, the Irish *Republics's largest building* society, is to become a bank, distributing free shares to 220,000 members. Analysts estimate that individual windfalls will be on average, £1,800. The society should float within 18 to 24 months and will be listed on the Stock Exchanges of London and Dublin.

☐ Britannic Assurance disclosed on Wednesday that it had set aside £150 *million* to compensate investors who were mis-sold personal pensions. 174 full-time staff will work on the 13,500 priority cases it has identified.

☐ An increasing number of product warranties are leaving consumers unprotected if a manufacturer or retailer goes under, according to Domestic & General, the insurer.

Drowning on the waves of Crest

No, thanks...
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Shares GUIDE
1
2
HINTS for the NEW ARRIVAL
BEGINNERS' PACK from YOUR FRIENDLY PLC
Dr SPOCK on NEW SHAREHOLDERS
TEETHING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR SHARES
GED

From Mrs P. Lumsden

Sir, Recently my husband *and I have been inundated* with, and our postman overloaded by, huge "information packs" welcoming us as new shareholders in plcs of which we have been shareholders for many years. Presumably this is because we have recently had our share certificates dematerialised on joining Crest. This inundation is an incredible waste of time, material and money and surely could be avoided by someone pressing *a few computer keys to* see if our names were listed as shareholders. I suppose it is reassuring to the extent that we, ourselves, as shareholders have not been dematerialised — we just hope the whole system does not become Crest-fallen!

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA LUMSDEN,
16A Merchiston Crescent,
Edinburgh.

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SAVINGS RATES

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£10,000–£24,999	6.65%
£25,000–£49,999	6.75%
£50,000–£99,999	6.90%
£100,000+	7.00%

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CGT ALLOWANCES — AUGUST 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in August 1997

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.919	0.825	0.738	0.647	0.585	0.534	0.428
February	-	0.910	0.818	0.724	0.641	0.579	0.528	0.418
March	0.995	0.907	0.812	0.708	0.639	0.576	0.523	0.411
April	0.956	0.881	0.788	0.672	0.623	0.557	0.498	0.387
May	0.942	0.873	0.781	0.665	0.620	0.555	0.492	0.378
June	0.936	0.868	0.777	0.661	0.621	0.555	0.487	0.373
July	0.936	0.858	0.779	0.664	0.625	0.557	0.485	0.372
August	0.935	0.850	0.762	0.660	0.620	0.552	0.469	0.369
September	0.936	0.842	0.759	0.661	0.612	0.548	0.462	0.359
October	0.927	0.835	0.748	0.658	0.610	0.540	0.447	0.349
November	0.917	0.829	0.743	0.652	0.598	0.533	0.441	0.338
December	0.921	0.824	0.744	0.650	0.591	0.534	0.437	0.334
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	0.326	0.217	0.169	0.149	0.122	0.086	0.055	0.027
February	0.319	0.211	0.163	0.142	0.115	0.079	0.050	0.023
March	0.306	0.206	0.159	0.138	0.112	0.075	0.046	0.020
April	0.267	0.191	0.142	0.127	0.099	0.084	0.039	0.014
May	0.256	0.187	0.138	0.123	0.095	0.059	0.037	0.010
June	0.251	0.182	0.138	0.124	0.095	0.058	0.036	0.006
July	0.250	0.185	0.142	0.127	0.101	0.063	0.040	0.006
August	0.237	0.182	0.141	0.122	0.095	0.057	0.035	
September	0.226	0.178	0.137	0.117	0.093	0.052	0.031	
October	0.216	0.173	0.133	0.118	0.092	0.058	0.031	
November	0.219	0.169	0.135	0.119	0.091	0.058	0.030	
December	0.220	0.168	0.139	0.117	0.086	0.052	0.027	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	139.62	147.30†	+ 2.09	
Do NAV to Jan 20	136.83	136.83	+ 7.01	
UK Equity Safeguard	109.11	116.27	+ 2.67	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93	+ 5.20	
Cash	956.61	961.39†	+ 1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	359.80	381.50†	+ 14.20	1.74
British Growth	82.74	88.45	+ 2.72	1.43
UK Small Cos	76.35	81.65†	+ 0.87	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	96.62	103.32	+ 1.11	2.11
Geared UK index	2267.47	2393.71†	+ 112.00	5.35
Income Funds				
UK Equity Inc #	112.10	119.88†	+ 3.57	4.24
Corp Bd	78.38	82.00	+ 1.16	..
Monthly Inc	42.57	45.34†	+ 0.85	8.45
International Funds				
American Gen	306.30	324.10	+ 10.40	
American Strat	278.51	297.86	+ 10.32	
JS US Index	2326.91	2451.78†	+ 67.00	1.00
European Gen	332.30	351.50	+ 11.10	0.64
European Strat	146.50	156.87	+ 4.80	
Japan Gen	129.60	137.20	- 2.70	
Japan Strat	44.04	46.46	- 1.23	
Asia Pacific	91.44	97.70	- 0.96	
Pacific Strat	152.08	162.65	- 6.47	
Greater China	303.63	324.74	- 9.87	
Latin America	129.81	138.74	+ 4.19	
Intl Growth	182.31	194.97	+ 2.70	
Balanced Europl	152.90	158.40		2.26
Global Strategy	51.73	55.32	+ 0.62	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	828.80	881.80	+ 32.50	3.23
General Inc	675.50	718.70	+ 26.50	3.23
UK Growth Acc	573.60	610.30	+ 22.40	2.11
UK Growth Inc	366.60	390.10	+ 14.20	2.11
Higher Inc Acc #	1015.20	1080.00	+ 30.10	4.42
Higher Inc Inc #	532.60	566.60	+ 15.80	4.42
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	227.40	240.10	+ 3.10	5.78
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.71	100.00	+ 1.28	5.38
Nth America	447.00	475.60	+ 11.20	
Europe	455.70	484.80	+ 19.50	0.01
Evl Excell	114.50	121.90	+ 4.40	2.25
Brd Fndmtls Acc	139.00	147.90	+ 3.30	4.29
Brd Fndmtls Inc	89.24	94.94	+ 2.10	4.29
Global Opps	117.90	125.50	+ 2.70	
Balanced Acc	74.77	79.56	+ 1.84	2.10
Balanced Inc	69.10	73.52	+ 1.09	2.10
Japan Acc	39.48	42.01	- 0.64	
Pac Basin Acc	379.80	404.10	- 2.30	1.24
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	139.00	147.50†	+ 3.30	6.18
High Inc Equity	217.30	232.40	+ 6.30	4.34
Worldwide Bond	271.30	287.70†	+ 2.40	3.44
American Growth	535.60	572.10	+ 17.20	0.29
Asian Pacific	321.60	344.20	- 9.70	0.40
Assets & Earnings	338.90	362.50	+ 9.90	2.58
Euro Capital Acc	245.70	262.80	+ 10.10	0.76
Extra Inc	43.59	46.37†	- 0.02	8.48
General	310.10	329.90†	+ 7.00	2.97
Global Opps	83.39	88.71†	+ 1.41	0.36
Japan	91.46	97.87	- 3.29	
Managed Inc	52.04	55.36†	+ 0.63	4.06
Mastertrust	191.50	204.80	+ 2.80	1.08
US Emerging Cos	229.30	245.10	+ 6.30	
Ethical	86.65	92.18	+ 0.90	1.99
International	154.90	164.80	+ 2.10	0.63
Dividend & Growth	80.00	85.11	+ 2.17	4.10
Global Gwth & Gen	77.67	82.68	+ 0.10	2.44
Latin America	97.95	104.20†	- 2.10	0.64
Capital Reserve	151.30	151.40	+ 0.60	4.62
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
NAP UK Growth	110.20	117.20	+ 3.30	2.02
Equity Income #	152.40	162.10†	+ 5.00	2.72
Extra Income #	291.40	309.90†	+ 8.90	6.54
Smaller Cos	104.80	111.40†	- 0.80	2.90
International	134.00	142.50	+ 4.60	1.28
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	81.01	84.73	+ 2.75	
Emerging Mkts	77.52	80.74	+ 0.09	
European	177.21	184.33	+ 6.69	
Extra Income #	55.48	58.39†	+ 1.48	5.27
Far East Emg Eco	113.45	119.00	- 1.42	0.58
Fixed Interest #	27.30	28.38†	+ 0.44	8.26
Fund Inv Tst #	167.16	175.49	+ 1.52	9.63
Japan	168.45	175.01†	- 0.65	
Latin American	81.70	85.88†	+ 2.51	
Pacific	75.14	78.88	- 0.17	0.28
Property	85.55	89.82	+ 1.12	1.61
UK Emerging Cos	68.43	73.95	+ 0.12	0.69
UK Growth	67.32	70.17	+ 2.35	1.44
Aber World Port #	92.59	97.45	+ 2.17	2.59
Ethical	84.45	87.82	+ 0.59	1.01
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.57	50.57†	+ 0.27	6.88
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2462.00	2569.00	+ 17.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Resdl Property #	109.20	116.10	+ 0.70	4.89
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	105.45	111.88†	+ 2.32	1.87
Income Builder Inc	94.51	100.54	+ 3.20	3.49
For Allid Dunbar see Threadneedle				
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	136.70	142.00	+ 2.60	
Frwndlin Persl Pens	80.42	83.55	+ 0.72	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	464.00	493.60†	+ 10.30	
Bond	124.50	130.80	+ 0.10	6.43
Brd Smlr Cos	115.10	122.40	+ 1.20	1.90
Europe	370.60	393.70	+ 16.40	.
Euro Smlr Cos	134.40	143.10	+ 2.10	0.31
High Income #	67.91	72.24†	+ 1.24	5.45
Income	405.30	431.20†	+ 5.80	4.00
Japan	305.60	324.10	- 3.00	
Latin American	121.90	129.70	+ 4.00	
Pacific	115.50	122.90	- 1.90	0.53
UK Smlr Cos	62.63	66.63	+ 0.82	1.29
Japan Fd	548.20	565.80	- 11.20	
Mngd Fd	244.30	259.40	+ 6.60	2.44
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Overs	442.40	467.90	+ 3.50	0.75
Capital Gwth	162.80	172.20	+ 5.00	2.43
Wrwde Opps	248.40	262.70		0.83
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	516.70	549.70	+ 16.40	1.52
European Bd Inc	99.47	103.00	+ 0.90	5.99
Exempt	102.90	109.50	+ 3.50	2.15
500	509.40	547.70†	+ 6.50	2
General	392.70	417.80†	+ 8.10	1.64
Property	263.80	283.10	+ 0.70	5.59
Trustee	278.50	298.30	+ 8.80	1.61
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.20	101.20	+ 0.10	6.36
Distribution #	126.20	126.80†	+ 3.20	5.14
Extra Income #	168.10	179.30	+ 4.30	4.17
Gilt & Fxd Int	62.32	64.24†	+ 1.31	7.24
Income #	693.00	739.30	+ 19.50	4.13
Income Builder #	79.33	84.48†	+ 2.22	4.75
Intl Income	85.97	91.46	+ 2.73	1.36
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	175.00	186.20†	+ 5.80	1.51
FTSE 100	129.30	137.10	+ 4.90	1.82
Smlr Cos Inc	59.73	63.71†	+ 0.55	2.29
UK Growth	502.50	536.60	+ 14.50	1.63
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	234.20	249.20	+ 7.90	0.09
F East Gwth Acc	275.50	293.10	- 10.00	0.69
Far East Gwth	163.20	173.60	- 5.90	0.69
Euro Gwth Inc	237.30	251.10†	+ 9.10	0.73
-do- Accum	259.00	275.00	+ 9.90	0.73
Japan	116.10	123.50	- 1.90	
-do- Accum	117.50	124.80	- 2.00	
Japan Spec Sits	54.66	57.91		1.29
Worldwide	224.70	238.50	+ 4.40	0.75
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	181.50	191.40	+ 7.50	
Amer Smlr Cos	188.90	200.20	+ 5.10	
Eastern	268.70	288.60	- 7.90	0.30
Equity Income #	130.30	138.40	+ 4.50	4.00
European Growth	484.00	514.20	+ 22.70	0.80
Europe	452.60	482.40	+ 6.50	0.80
German Growth	109.80	116.50	+ 1.60	0.50
Global Bond	73.63	77.66	+ 0.87	4.60
Global Growth	176.10	186.80	+ 5.60	0.40
Japan Growth	151.60	160.70	- 4.70	
Japan Sunrise	104.00	110.10	- 3.10	
Korea Trust	48.86	53.25	- 1.39	
Portfolio	173.00	184.20†	+ 5.80	2.00
-do- Accum	333.80	355.60	+ 11.10	2.00
UK Growth	128.40	137.40	+ 4.90	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	114.90	124.60	+ 3.10	1.90
Select Managers	98.33	105.30	+ 1.50	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	108.20	115.10	+ 3.30	
Special Oppor Inc	75.67	80.50†	- 0.78	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	180.14	187.65	+ 5.47	1.10
-do- Accum	210.82	219.60	+ 8.39	1.10
Smaller Cos	175.86	183.19	+ 1.19	0.39
Higher Yield #	68.14	70.97	+ 2.03	3.74
American Gth Inc	137.66	143.39†	+ 2.08	
European Growth	205.26	213.81†	+ 7.55	
-do- Accum	209.65	218.39	+ 7.72	
Mngd Ptflo Inc	63.48	66.13†	+ 0.52	1.27
-do- Accum	66.53	69.30	+ 0.87	1.27
Intl Spec Opps	212.66	221.52	+ 1.80	
Pacific Gth	164.19	171.03	- 8.29	
UK General #	121.65	126.72	+ 3.98	2.83
-do- Accum #	133.97	139.56	+ 4.38	2.83
Japan	48.45	50.47	- 0.63	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	107.13	111.01†	+ 2.90	7.61
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	65.86	66.70	+ 0.32	6.27
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	208.60	219.60	+ 5.10	1.53
UK Growth	260.50	274.20†	+ 8.70	1.82
UK Income	179.80	189.30	+ 5.70	3.67
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Dist	275.60	292.10	+ 9.20	1.96
-do- Income Dist	152.40	161.50	+ 5.20	3.10
-do- Accum	506.90	537.30	+ 17.10	3.10
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.59	44.75†	+ 0.70	6.09
Growth Units	318.50	340.50†	+ 12.80	1.72
Bond	184.10	193.70†	+ 3.40	6.00
Intl Growth	253.90	270.40	+ 4.40	0.17
North American	326.20	348.10	+ 11.40	.
Far East	270.30	289.10	- 6.70	0.67
UK Smaller Cos	247.30	264.50	+ 2.90	1.08
European	117.10	124.60	+ 5.10	0.40
Japanese Growth	36.85	39.05	- 0.11	.
High Income	263.40	281.40†	+ 2.80	3.61
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	290.20	306.80†	+ 10.60	
European Inc	121.60	129.40†	+ 4.80	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	109.80	116.90†	+ 1.40	1.76
Growth	667.10	699.10†	+ 14.80	1.85
Income & Growth #	564.90	590.40	+ 19.50	4.34
-do- Accum #	866.60	922.20	+ 30.40	4.34
Japan & Gen	57.73	61.18	- 0.46	.
Hallmark Gwth	1467.00	1529.00	+ 52.00	1.51
-do- Accum	1834.00	1911.00	+ 66.00	1.51
Special Sits	152.30	162.10	+ 3.40	1.81
High Yield	1808.00	1864.00	+ 61.00	3.84
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	114.64	122.11	+ 2.43	2.30
American Portfolio	161.29	171.08	+ 5.95	0.71
European Portfolio	165.95	176.47	+ 6.85	0.41
High Income	54.95	57.83	+ 0.94	6.69
Japanese Portfolio	55.81	59.18†	- 1.83	
Pacific Portfolio	151.31	162.70	- 2.18	0.73
UK Equity	113.61	121.30	+ 3.46	2.82
UK Equity & Bd	66.99	69.94	+ 1.70	5.16
UK Smlr Cos	53.19	56.89†	+ 0.72	1.69
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	901.64	915.26	- 13.34	3.79
Inv Fd Acc	922.22	936.16	13.64	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	160.31	160.85	+ 0.81	8.88
Fxd Int Sec Acc	167.56	168.26	+ 0.86	..
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	912.16	925.94	+ 12.86	3.76
Investment Acc	4344.24	4409.90	+ 61.78	
Fixed Int Inc	133.53	134.07	+ 1.83	8.65
Fixed Int Acc	259.62	260.66	+ 3.75	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	94.93	99.88	+ 2.59	5.02
Beck Bio-Tech	45.06	48.64	+ 2.08	
Acorn Ethical Tst	220.53	231.58	+ 7.48	0.40
City Fin Assets	86.52	90.85	- 0.70	1.82
City Fin Intl	96.38	101.21	- 1.37	0.06
Frnrs Hse Cap	348.30	370.53	+ 0.41	1.68
Buckley Wrld Gth	157.15	166.80†	- 1.81	..
Stow Utilities	77.58	79.25	+ 1.35	4.33
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	64.17	68.08	+ 0.32	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	101.54	108.02	+ 3.08	.
Dragon Growth	66.48	71.10	- 1.12	0.59
Equity High Inc	109.93	116.32†	+ 3.50	3.33
-do- Accum	165.04	174.64	+ 5.28	3.33
Extra Income Inc	28.49	29.98	+ 0.53	6.34
Extra Income Acc	32.69	34.40	+ 0.61	6.34
European Gwth	82.85	87.67	+ 4.07	0.08
Evergreen	36.27	38.79	+ 1.27	..
General Equity	130.22	137.44	+ 5.26	2.34
Japan Growth	39.62	42.15	- 0.34	
Pedigree Gwth	77.02	81.50	+ 2.71	1.81
Pad Sm Cos Inc	41.01	43.40	+ 0.31	1.42
-do- Accum	43.92	46.48	+ 0.33	1.42
Retirement Inc #	32.82	34.92	+ 0.98	5.25
Special Sits	54.01	58.07	+ 1.48	2.92
UK & Overseas	71.54	75.70	+ 2.10	0.45
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	80.59	83.94†	+ 2.17	3.68
Capital	99.40	103.54†	+ 3.69	2.12
High Income	55.64	57.95†	+ 1.11	6.38
Top 50	71.06	74.01†	+ 2.88	2.18
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	220.36	229.57	+ 6.66	4.20
Long Gilt	49.21	51.24	+ 1.53	5.45
Monthly Inc Plus	56.31	58.66	+ 1.72	7.84
Preference Share	54.22	56.49	+ 1.92	6.90
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	159.44	168.10	+ 4.86	5.38
Managed Fund	87.83	91.50	+ 2.98	2.47
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.99	54.16	- 0.02	1.57
-do- Accum	62.18	64.78	- 0.02	1.57
UK & General	120.24	125.26	+ 2.69	2.24
-do- Accum	159.39	166.05	+ 3.55	2.24
UK Growth	238.06	248.01	+ 8.17	1.56
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	269.76	281.03	+ 13.43	0.48
Far Eastern Grth	126.56	131.85	- 1.49	0.21
Global Bond	75.30	78.45	+ 0.24	6.56
Japan Growth	101.09	105.31	- 0.46	
North Amer Gwth	309.18	322.10	+ 11.15	.
Oriental Growth	80.11	83.46	- 1.42	0.59
Worldwide Growth	84.37	87.89	+ 2.61	0.30
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.48	93.48	+ 0.09	6.03
Homeowners Fund	103.65	110.28	+ 3.59	1.96
Outflier Fund	176.54	187.81†	+ 6.20	1.68
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	39.97	42.72†	+ 0.74	2.90
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	197.40	210.00	+ 1.80	1.70
Income	84.54	89.94†	+ 2.78	3.82
European	95.04	101.11	+ 3.51	0.14
Recovery	192.80	205.10	+ 6.00	2.01
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1167.10	1186.20	+ 17.90	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	87.26	92.61	+ 4.68	0.34
Fellowship Tst	116.50	123.90	+ 1.00	1.10
Income #	332.00	353.10	+ 10.40	3.89
-do- Accum #	902.80	960.40	+ 28.40	3.89
Smaller Cos	230.80	245.50	+ 0.60	0.75
-do- Accum	288.30	306.70	+ 0.70	0.75
Gth Portfolio	114.30	121.50	+ 3.30	1.30
High Inc Port #	96.92	103.10	+ 3.00	4.05
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1534				
Global Sm Cos	1949.00	1970.90	+ 12.60	0.52
UK Small Cos	2268.00	2356.00	+ 7.10	2.91
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	249.20	256.90	+ 1.80	
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	208.40	221.60	+ 7.50	1.46
UK High Inc Inc	223.30	237.50	+ 8.00	3
-do- Accum	311.30	331.10	+ 11.10	3
UK Pref & F I Inc	63.98	67.94	+ 1.35	5.44
Environmntl Opps	125.10	133.00	+ 4.60	0.75
UK Smlr Cos	74.15	78.88†	+ 1.28	0.85
Extra Income Inc	53.70	57.11†	+ 1.35	6.66
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	24.44	25.97†	+ 0.46	5.39
Enterprise	120.30	127.50	+ 0.80	1.96
Equity Income #	169.40	180.00†	+ 6.70	3.56
European	77.21	81.67	+ 2.84	..
Financial	69.57	73.92†	+ 1.80	1.35
Growth & Inc #	345.70	367.30†	+ 11.50	2.38
High Dist #	216.60	230.10	+ 7.10	3.69
International	463.50	492.50	+ 10.20	0.20
Int Cap Inc	127.30	135.80	+ 3.90	1.99
Latin American	42.67	45.34†	+ 1.77	..
Mgd Gwth Port	97.22	101.60	- 0.20	4.92
Pacific	84.78	90.05	- 0.45	.
Pref High Inc	25.11	26.68	+ 0.78	6.75
Tokyo	180.20	190.40†	- 0.80	..
UK Smaller Cos	251.40	267.10	+ 5.40	1.12
Japan Sm Cos	295.50	312.80	- 6.10	
Nth Amer	558.40	588.60	+ 20.90	0.50
UK Inc & Grth	313.30	333.90	+ 11.90	2.22
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	123.31	131.33	- 1.04	0.98
Growth Acc	314.80	334.96		0.20
Income	622.08	663.41	+ 4.30	5.61
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	257.30	273.70	+ 3.20	0.91
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	114.66	120.69	+ 4.97	1.39
Ethical Tst	55.46	58.38	+ 0.90	0.81
Far Eastern	285.20	300.21	- 3.69	1.58
High Income	167.35	176.16	+ 4.63	4.25
UK Index Trcking	64.90	68.32†	+ 2.43	2.56
Intl Growth	154.28	162.40	+ 0.21	1.19
North American	194.16	204.38†	+ 5.78	1.45
Pelican	177.05	186.37	+ 6.04	2.59
Smaller Cos	72.79	78.62	+ 0.39	2.43
Special Sits	90.00	94.74†	+ 0.20	3.30
Tst of Inv Tsts	240.26	252.91†	+ 2.68	1.41
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	124.10	131.67	+ 1.75	
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.63	62.21	+ 0.64	0.47
High Income #	41.21	43.70	+ 0.35	11.44
Wav & Gl Opps	52.79	56.76†	+ 1.15	.
Zero Preference	47.91	50.83	+ 0.16	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	115.60	122.90	+ 3.10	2.10
United Charities	336.90	358.30	+ 3.60	1.65
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.40
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	27.01	28.00	+ 0.18	5.22
Strategic Inc	29.52	30.86†	+ 0.51	5.50
Income Funds				
High Income	30.61	32.14†	+ 0.73	4.79
Income Plus	162.90	173.30†	+ 5.10	3.46
European Income	61.58	65.44	+ 2.18	1.71
Moneybuilder Gwth	37.94	38.21†	+ 1.22	2.19
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	39.15	41.77	- 2.53	
American	440.80	467.70	+ 16.40	
Amer Spec Sits	260.10	276.80	+ 7.70	..
Japan Smaller Cos	22.48	23.87	- 0.59	
European	295.50	314.20	+ 9.30	0.43
European Opps	107.80	114.60	+ 4.40	0.49
Global Priv	39.25	41.74	+ 0.91	0.39
UK Growth	147.20	156.60†	+ 3.20	1.24
Growth & Inc	216.30	230.00	+ 8.60	2.08
Intl PEP	80.07	83.88	+ 2.11	1.08
Japan Spec Sits	71.99	76.32	- 1.03	
Japan	174.70	185.00	+ 1.60	
Managed Intl	448.70	476.40	+ 15.50	0.56
Moneybuilder Plus	78.54	79.10	+ 1.83	0.33
Recovery	70.31	74.76	+ 2.37	1.83
South E Asia	196.30	208.50	- 2.10	0.92
Special Sits	843.30	896.70†	+ 12.00	0.49
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	121.09	121.09	+ 0.11	6.40
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	172.10	174.10†	- 0.50	1.59
Finsbury Prt Inc #	106.30	107.10†	+ 2.60	6.17
Cap Ptfolio	195.00	196.70	+ 6.80	0.08
General Opps	165.40	166.70	+ 2.30	2.99
Growth Inc	45.43	45.90	+ 1.64	1.81
Private Portfolio	568.00	574.20†	+ 0.70	1.08
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 388 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	177.90	180.20	+ 5.60	
High Income	23.56	25.05	+ 0.60	8.98
Japan Smlr Cos	14.15	15.15	- 0.23	.
US Smaller Cos	544.00	577.40	+ 16.30	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6509 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	104.50	110.80	+ 3.20	.
-do- Accum	104.50	110.80	+ 3.70	
Amer Smlr Cos	832.40	885.70†	+ 21.20	
-do- Accum	850.30	904.80†	+ 21.60	
Capital Tst	405.60	431.50†	+ 3.90	1.26
-do- Accum	603.70	642.20†	+ 10.70	1.26
Contl Smlr Cos	67.35	72.38	+ 0.97	1.03
-do- Accum	72.91	77.67	+ 1.05	1.03
Convertible	146.10	155.40	- 0.30	5.38
-do- Accum	331.00	352.10	- 0.50	5.38
Emerging Markets	79.71	85.16	- 0.14	0.54
-do- Accum	80.35	85.84	- 0.14	0.54
European	192.10	203.30	+ 9.60	0.40
-do- Accum	204.38	216.30	+ 10.40	0.40
Extra Income	466.40	496.20	+ 15.70	3.99
-do- Accum	768.40	817.40	+ 25.70	3.99
Financial	235.30	250.30	+ 9.32	0.94
-do- Accum	252.00	268.10	+ 9.80	0.94
Gilt Trust	64.63	66.64	+ 0.42	7.04
-do- Accum	103.60	106.80	+ 0.70	7.04
Health Fund Inc	304.90	325.70	+ 11.00	
-do- Accum	304.90	325.70	+ 11.00	.
Income & Growth	273.00	290.40	+ 9.90	3.54
-do- Accum	446.80	475.30	+ 16.40	3.54
Intl Growth	490.40	522.10	+ 13.80	
-do- Accum	544.60	579.80	+ 15.50	
Japan & Gen	148.70	157.80	- 0.70	
-do- Accum	150.20	159.30	- 0.80	
Monthly Inc #	235.80	250.80†	+ 6.00	4.26
-do- Accum #	243.90	259.50†	+ 8.30	4.26
Managed Port Inc	136.40	143.60	+ 3.30	1.25
-do- Accum	150.00	157.90	+ 3.70	1.25
Quarterly Income #	64.13	68.59†	+ 2.47	6.74
-do- Accum #	77.07	82.43†	+ 2.95	6.74
Recovery	356.40	381.20	+ 5.40	
-do- Accum	420.70	440.90	+ 6.30	...
UK Growth	77.89	82.86	+ 2.61	1.79
-do- Accum	86.07	91.56	+ 2.79	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715884				
FP American	79.63	84.65	+ 2.82	
FP Am Smlr Cos	239.50	255.40	+ 4.50	...
FP Asian Growth	261.00	278.40	- 7.40	
FP Australian	481.50	513.60†	+ 19.20	
FP Equity Dist	550.80	587.30	+ 16.80	1.98
-do- Accum	1243.00	1325.00	+ 38.00	1.98
FP Euro Gth	380.20	405.50	+ 16.30	..
-do- Accum	418.60	444.30	+ 17.90	..
FP Intl Bond	57.66	61.01†	+ 0.44	3.98
FP Intl Gth Dist	44.63	47.60	+ 1.22	
-do- Accum	65.56	69.93	+ 1.81	
FP Pac Basn Acc	214.90	229.20	- 2.00	
FP Income #	69.09	73.69	+ 2.26	4.37
-do- Accum #	250.70	267.40	+ 8.20	4.37
FP Jap Smlr Cos	204.60	218.20	- 6.60	
FP Monthly Dist #	84.12	89.72†	+ 2.23	4.77
FP Stg Deposit	101.00	101.00		6.27
FP Tokyo	73.45	78.34	- 0.70	
FP UK Focus	51.64	55.08	+ 1.70	1.47
FP UK Growth	243.10	259.30	+ 8.50	1.56
-do- Accum	500.50	533.80	+ 17.40	1.58
Stewardship Dist	471.40	502.80	+ 4.70	1.48
-do- Accum	599.80	639.70	+ 6.10	1.48
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	78.97	84.23†	+ 0.55	4.98
-do- Accum #	112.50	120.00	+ 0.70	4.96
N Am Stshp Dist	169.20	180.30	+ 1.80	
-do- Accum	182.20	194.00	+ 2.00	.
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	121.60	122.20	+ 2.40	2.72
Inst Ethical Ac #	122.90	123.50	+ 2.40	2.72
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	148.00	157.40	+ 2.00	0.47
Open Cap Gth Acc	151.10	160.70	+ 1.80	
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	132.20	140.60†	+ 1.90	2.63
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	143.20	152.30	+ 2.00	2.63
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	137.30	146.00†	+ 2.40	3.59
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	150.70	160.30	+ 2.60	3.59
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	362.40	384.50	+ 11.90	1.50
Cash	49.55	50.30†	+ 0.04	4.53
Growth Portfolio	104.10	110.70	+ 1.80	
Income Portfolio	85.94	91.18†	+ 2.68	2.71
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 628 9437				
American Smll Cos	273.50	292.20	+ 6.30	0.11
European Gth	885.70	940.70	+ 33.70	0.51
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	61.03	64.54	+ 1.20	3.70
-do- Accum	70.08	74.11	+ 1.37	3.70
High Yield #	53.41	56.43†	+ 0.94	7.16
-do- Accum #	62.64	66.18	+ 1.11	7.16
Income Inc	220.60	236.00†	+ 3.60	3.77
-do- Accum	260.60	278.70	+ 4.20	3.77
Intl Growth	432.70	458.60	+ 11.00	0.27
Intl Income	113.80	120.60	+ 4.90	1.96
Japan Growth	423.30	448.50	- 3.70	
Ocean Acc	201.70	215.80	- 9.60	0.14
UK General Inc	225.60	240.60†	+ 7.10	1.64
UK General Acc	409.10	438.40	+ 12.90	1.64
UK Sm Cos Dw Acc	65.07	69.60	+ 0.13	1.67
UK Spec Sits	118.40	126.70	+ 1.80	1.30
US Growth	246.60	260.70	+ 8.50	
Wrwde Spec Sits	199.70	212.50	+ 5.50	.
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	70.56	75.37†	+ 2.61	1.80
Practical Inv Inc #	136.38	145.86†	- 1.80	3.30
-do- Accum #	339.26	362.84†	+ 3.96	3.30
UK Index	217.91	219.01†	+ 7.26	2.85
UK Smaller Cos	237.28	253.78	+ 3.54	0.41
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	26.16	27.11†	+ 0.38	7.08
High Income	40.85	43.55†	+ 1.51	3.51
UK Growth & Inc	187.88	200.66†	+ 5.62	1.91
Global Bond	28.27	29.31†	- 0.18	4.98
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	52.70	56.36		
Global Managed	167.22	177.51	+ 3.88	1.02
Gold & Intl Res	101.45	108.50†	- 0.64	
Global Utilities	175.20	186.78†	+ 4.26	0.44
Overseas Funds				
American	257.68	272.84	+ 7.48	0.37
European	172.58	183.49	+ 9.18	0.44
Euro Sel Opps	270.33	287.56†	+ 12.74	
Amer Emerging	210.50	223.80	+ 1.13	
Hong Kong	236.34	253.16	- 9.05	0.74
Japan	189.30	200.38	- 4.13	.
Pacific Growth	213.97	229.63	- 4.26	.
Gartmore Persnl Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	152.61	152.61†	+ 0.14	6.40
Managed Equity	300.05	300.05	+ 8.75	1.52
Long Term Bal	318.30	318.30	+ 7.26	2.47
Med Term Bal	259.31	259.31	+ 6.31	2.67
UK Equity	370.74	370.74	+ 14.04	1.97
UK Emerging Cos	187.89	187.89	+ 1.22	2.21
American	430.90	430.90†	+ 15.83	0.17
Japan	111.01	111.01†	- 2.21	
European	448.19	448.19†	+ 20.79	0.53
Index Linked Gilt	201.06	201.06†	+ 3.36	2.52
Fixed Interest	198.27	198.27†	+ 3.45	6.69
Amer Emerging	459.00	459.00	+ 2.91	
Pacific	201.49	201.49	- 2.99	1.08
Emerging Mkts	151.70	151.70†	+ 2.05	0.71
Index Strat Japan	117.31	117.31	- 1.16	0.29
-do- Pacific Rim	186.12	186.12	- 4.81	1.35
-do- Cont Europe	240.80	240.80	+ 13.58	1.17
Index Strat USA	259.24	259.24	+ 8.74	1.11
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	141.84	150.89	+ 4.41	..
Med Term Bal	124.24	132.16	+ 3.22	..
Long Term Bal	143.82	152.99	+ 3.49	..
UK Equity	172.88	183.91	+ 6.97	..
UK Emerging Cos	86.12	91.62	+ 0.60	..
American	200.21	212.99	+ 7.85	...
Japan	52.80	56.17	- 1.46	...
European	186.68	198.59	+ 9.24	.
Fixed Interest	102.69	109.24	+ 1.90	
Index Linked Gilt	88.67	95.39	+ 1.59	..
Deposit	92.29	98.17	+ 0.09	.
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	172.90	182.00†	+ 1.05	0.47
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stlg & Intl Inc	787.46	837.72	+ 20.89	0.10
-do- Accum	893.85	950.90	+ 23.72	0.10
European Inc	217.66	230.81	+ 9.14	0.50
Amalgam Inc	185.54	197.38	- 1.05	.
N America Inc	532.82	566.76	+ 17.03	
Far East Inc	341.80	363.62	- 5.77	0.31
-do- Accum	354.75	377.40	- 5.99	0.31
UK Dvid Inc	233.92	248.85	- 3.32	0.76
For John Govett see AIB Govett				
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 9689				
European	730.10	780.00	+ 27.50	
Gilt & Fixed	138.20	145.50†	+ 2.30	5.10
Growth Equity	511.40	546.30	+ 16.40	0.85
Income Trust	179.90	192.20	+ 4.80	3.55
International	236.30	252.40†	+ 5.00	
Japan Trust	106.90	114.20	- 1.90	
Nth American	464.00	495.50	+ 12.30	
Pacific	512.10	547.10	- 12.80	0.19
Guardhall	727.30	777.00†	+ 20.40	0.93
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	100.17	103.95†	+ 1.35	4.96
Global High Inc	97.50	101.21	+ 1.40	4.79
Stlg Bond Pflo	112.68	116.96	+ 2.40	6.47
Cast Mgd Pflo	129.87	138.08	+ 3.40	4.71
European Pflo	160.87	170.98	+ 7.87	
World Mkts Pflo	85.41	90.82	+ 2.81	0.69
UK Eq Inc Pflo	168.45	179.10†	+ 5.17	3.18
-do- Accum	255.14	271.28	+ 7.84	3.18
Recovery	481.80	512.30	+ 15.00	2.88
-do- Accum	579.80	616.50	+ 17.90	2.88
St Vinc High Inc	140.18	142.28†	+ 2.71	6.86
UK Emerg Cos	297.90	316.70	+ 4.00	2.08
Incl UK Sm Co	406.20	413.30	+ 4.30	3.16
Glob Prtv Tst	153.28	162.97	+ 4.22	0.62
-do- Accum	159.37	169.45	+ 4.40	0.62
Inc Share Tst	98.19	104.41†	+ 1.12	8.20
Small Cos	103.92	110.48†	+ 6.51	1.69
HK & China Tst	108.57	115.44	- 1.64	
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 0171 220 5050				
Balanced Inc	63.81	67.66†	+ 1.87	2.92
Balanced Acc	69.69	73.80	+ 2.04	2.92
Growth	40.10	42.52†	+ 1.34	1.64
Growth Acc	42.19	44.73	+ 1.41	1.64
Income	37.85	40.13†	+ 1.32	3.77
Income Acc	41.96	44.49	+ 1.45	3.77
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Accumulation Tst	33.82	36.32	+ 1.22	2.59
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 390				
High Provider	105.10	108.60†	+ 2.10	6.31
Model Ptflo	292.00	306.40	+ 7.70	1.60
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Pref Acc	51.34	54.47	+ 1.37	2.79
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 464646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	395.80	423.49†	+ 9.43	0.61
Best of British	87.44	92.94	+ 2.90	1.75
UK Smaller Cos	159.57	171.53†	+ 1.05	1.14
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	370.87	394.96	+ 11.88	2.85
-do- Accum #	1078.08	1148.11	+ 34.54	2.85
High Income	401.92	429.64	+ 8.24	3.61
Extra Income #	333.66	354.84†	+ 9.25	5.91
Pref & Bond	53.71	55.50	+ 1.39	7.72
International				
Ethical	137.77	147.34†	+ 3.37	1.42
International	376.05	399.22	+ 8.99	
Global Bond	54.56	57.43†	+ 0.52	5.30
Intl Port Tst	111.67	119.42	+ 1.65	0.11
Global Tech	288.31	307.30	+ 7.07	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	186.94	199.91	- 1.65	1.09
European	799.30	846.79	+ 34.69	0.09
European Income #	111.15	117.66†	+ 3.91	5.06
Euro Smlr Cos	229.97	244.56	+ 3.15	0.35
European Value	116.07	123.63	+ 2.65	.
-do- Accum	125.34	133.51	+ 3.08	.
Japan Trust	165.21	175.81	- 5.97	.
Japan Smlr Cos	142.94	151.99	- 3.96	.
Pacific Smlr Cos	218.59	232.88	- 3.03	.
North American	420.44	446.64	+ 14.72	.
American Smaller	228.58	242.91	+ 6.46	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	181.90	191.50†	+ 6.40	4.77
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	152.29	159.47	+ 6.03	1.45
Capital	236.64	247.79†	+ 7.90	1.12
Dollar	642.47	672.75	+ 20.88	.
Enterprise Gth	483.13	505.89†	+ 8.71	0.64
European	347.70	364.08	+ 13.18	.
Far East	274.75	287.69	- 8.03	0.96
Financial	1363.89	1428.16†	+ 41.39	1.29
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.25	29.38	+ 0.57	6.30
High Yield #	135.56	141.95	+ 5.10	4.17
Income & Growth #	202.80	212.36	+ 7.92	3.12
International	338.53	354.49	+ 10.62	0.39
Japanese General	168.81	176.76	- 0.27	.
Japan Tech	79.19	82.92	- 0.36	.
Nat Resources	73.68	77.13	- 0.44	0.50
Portfolio	96.13	100.66	+ 2.92	1.74
Special Sits	235.53	246.62†	- 0.35	0.18
UK Emerging Cos	131.74	137.95†	+ 1.81	1.15
US Smaller Cos	199.96	209.38	+ 6.06	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	783.60	838.30	+ 28.30	4.54
UK Growth	840.50	897.00	+ 31.00	1.61
High Income #	138.80	148.10†	+ 4.80	5.36
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	812.50	858.40	+ 32.60	.
European Gwth	197.40	209.70	+ 9.50	0.02
Japan Gwth	249.10	264.70	- 1.10	
Japan Smlr Cos	23.47	25.05	- 0.74	
Asian	55.88	59.64	- 2.05	0.20
Sing & Malay Gwth	62.73	66.95	- 4.81	
Hong Kong Gwth	234.80	250.60	- 8.50	0.13
Global Bond	21.49	22.64	+ 0.21	4.51
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	206.40	207.40	+ 7.00	2.77
Triton Index	137.70	141.20†	+ 1.90	2.53
THE FOOTSIE FUND	83.85	84.27	+ 3.31	2.56
Index Funds-International				
American Index	387.40	399.30	+ 13.10	0.58
Eurotrack 100	253.00	254.30	+ 12.50	0.97
Japan Index	62.08	62.39	- 0.50	0.19
Tiger Index	144.20	147.60†	- 4.80	0.73
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	52.39	54.72†	+ 0.30	1.69
General Funds				
Managed Dcl	100.70	105.20	+ 2.10	1.04
Managed	104.50	109.10	+ 2.10	1.04
Rupert Child Fnd	131.60	137.20	+ 5.00	1.44
UK Growth	85.24	89.02	+ 2.92	1.33
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	102.90	107.50	+ 3.30	5.11
Gilt & Fixed Int #	28.33	29.27†	+ 0.16	7.38
UK Inc & Gwth	59.07	61.89	+ 2.12	2.41
UK Income #	451.70	471.80	+ 15.50	3.93
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	82.37	85.24†	+ 2.45	..
Amer Smlr Cos	208.10	216.40	+ 3.50	
-do- Accum	210.30	218.70	+ 3.60	
Europe Gth	294.60	306.70†	+ 11.00	
-do- Accum	305.30	317.70†	+ 11.40	
Euro Smaller Cos	52.49	54.65	+ 0.81	
French Growth	115.20	119.50	+ 4.90	0.06
-do- Accum	124.70	129.40	+ 5.30	0.06
H Kong & China	155.60	162.10	- 5.80	0.20
Intl Growth	80.02	83.35	+ 2.34	0.40
-do- Accum	81.54	84.93	+ 2.39	0.40
Japan Gth	24.25	25.27	+ 0.02	..
-do- Accum	24.25	25.27	+ 0.02	..
Japan Smaller Cos	23.96	25.01†	- 0.56	
Glob Emg Mkts	109.50	114.40	+ 2.00	
-do- Accum	110.30	115.20	+ 2.00	
SE Asia	323.40	337.80	- 13.00	0.03
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	50.61	52.19†	+ 0.53	6.25
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	132.70	140.40	+ 5.20	2.91
UK Growth	137.20	145.20	+ 5.50	1.45
Euro Growth	118.90	124.70	+ 3.80	1.79
Slater Gwth	213.50	227.70	+ 3.10	0.88
New Japan	65.50	69.16	- 0.01	..
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	222.40	236.50	+ 8.00	
Income #	258.60	275.10	+ 4.06	3.77
UK Growth	97.08	103.27	+ 2.47	1.79
Intl Growth	99.30	105.63	+ 2.45	0.53
Ecology	115.26	122.61	+ 3.36	0.71
European	249.62	265.47	+ 6.91	0.19
Far Eastern	320.19	340.52	- 2.28	.
UK Special Sits	63.38	67.60	+ 0.95	0.36
Fd of Inv Tsts	61.00	65.07	+ 0.57	0.52
High Income #	59.99	63.99	+ 1.88	4.38
Financial Opps	49.57	52.87	+ 0.65	.
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	105.30	110.30†	+ 2.00	6.95
Euro Priv Inc	127.00	135.10	+ 2.60	2.75
-do- Accum	127.30	135.40	+ 2.60	2.75
Gilt Yield	124.80	131.60†	+ 2.10	6.44
Global Income	266.70	283.70†	+ 4.70	2.82
High Yield	196.60	209.10	+ 6.70	4.46
-do- Accum	669.10	711.80	+ 22.70	4.46
Money Market	101.31	101.31†	+ 0.10	6.44
Smllr Cos Dw	68.57	70.82†	+ 0.77	3.56
Tomorrows Co Ex Acc	1145.00	1183.00	+ 42.00	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	202.90	215.90	+ 4.80	.
Asian Growth	277.50	295.30	- 9.70	.
-do- Accum	326.10	346.90	- 11.40	.
North American	141.60	150.60	+ 4.40	
European Special	159.70	169.90	+ 4.10	.
European	225.80	240.20	+ 8.40	0.54
-do- Accum	300.30	319.50	+ 11.20	0.54
Global Eqty Inc	140.50	149.20†	+ 3.60	1.52
Japan	346.90	369.00	- 6.60	.
Japanese Special	171.70	182.70	- 1.90	.
Smaller Cos	157.10	167.10	+ 1.70	0.94
UK Equity Growth	61.63	65.58†	+ 1.81	1.09
UK Index Inc	414.90	417.00	+ 12.90	3.18
Bishopsgate Tst	119.00	127.80†		1.49
-do- Accum	121.80	130.90†	.	1.49
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	370.32	393.96	+ 10.20	4.19
Exit Growth	123.42	131.30	+ 1.47	1.14
Inc & Growth	82.09	87.33	+ 3.03	3.42
Smaller Cos	102.48	109.02	+ 0.76	1.16
Ever Spec Sit Inc	62.91	66.93	+ 0.70	1.73
Ever Spec Sit Acc	66.02	70.23	+ 0.74	1.73
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	557.80	591.80†	+ 19.80	1.47
UK Inc/Gth #	585.90	619.60†	+ 13.90	3.09
UK Income #	415.70	441.10†	+ 15.70	3.89
UK Sm Cos	309.70	329.80†	- 3.60	1.79
Euro Gwth	195.40	205.60	+ 8.50	0.14
N Amer Gwth	159.40	168.90	+ 3.10	.
Pacific Growth	10.14	10.72	- 0.56	0.44
Emg Mkts Gwth	90.36	95.87	+ 0.74	.
Japan Growth	50.15	53.03	- 0.41	.
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	81.56	86.25†	+ 1.55	0.61
Gwth Port Acc	83.31	88.10†	+ 1.58	0.61
Inc Port Inc	73.46	77.53	+ 1.85	3.51
Inc Port Acc	84.23	88.90	+ 2.12	3.41
Wrlde Port	68.38	70.20	+ 0.07	..
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 683512				
Equity Dist @	719.20	719.20	+ 25.20	2.05
-do- Accum @	1521.00	1521.00	+ 53.00	2.05
Equity Income #	130.90	139.90†	+ 4.20	4.47

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Tactical Allocn @	83.84	83.84†	+ 3.42	5.05
European @	182.80	182.80†	+ 8.20	0.15
Far Eastern @	213.10	213.10†	- 3.30	
Fixed Interest @	57.88	57.88†	+ 0.94	6.62
Gilt @	97.66	97.66	+ 1.49	6.03
Global Growth @	89.94	89.94	+ 1.83	
Intl Bond @	49.76	49.76†	+ 0.28	5.35
Japanese @	62.08	62.08	- 0.06	
North American @	290.00	290.00	+ 9.30	
Pacific Growth @	116.70	116.70†	- 2.60	0.34
Pacific Index @	45.03	45.03	- 0.39	2.30
UK Index @	94.93	94.93	+ 3.17	2.58
UK Recovery @	134.00	134.00	+ 5.30	1.49
UK Smaller Cos @	172.70	172.70†	+ 1.90	1.12
US Index @	113.80	113.80	+ 3.90	0.75
European Index @	115.70	115.70†	+ 5.50	1.05
Japan Index @	31.94	31.94	- 0.29	
Worldwide @	113.70	113.70	+ 3.00	0.98
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 823				
Growth	68.63	73.40	+ 2.24	1.99
Income	80.04	85.60	+ 2.41	3.66
Far East	42.52	45.47	- 0.88	
North American	172.90	184.30	+ 6.80	
Global	102.10	109.10	+ 1.40	0.29
European	128.10	136.70	+ 6.00	0.59
Japan	77.90	83.04†	- 1.51	
Intl Currency Bd	57.99	61.43	+ 0.48	5.22
SE Asia	89.42	95.63	- 1.86	0.45
UK Cap Growth	124.00	132.60	+ 3.70	1.25
Recovery Trust	102.10	109.10	+ 0.70	1.85
Managed	80.25	85.82†	+ 1.22	1.53
Cash	51.35	51.35	+ 0.05	6.43
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	499.30	531.10	+ 15.10	1.80
-do- Accum	1205.00	1282.00	+ 37.00	1.80
Contl Euro Gth	99.75	105.00	+ 3.90	0.02
-do- Accum	108.00	113.70	+ 4.20	0.02
Extra Inc #	350.50	372.90	+ 14.70	3.44
Extra Inc Acc #	993.50	1057.00	+ 41.00	3.44
FTSE 100 Inc	155.00	164.90	+ 5.60	2.00
FTSE 100 Acc	165.10	175.70	+ 6.00	2.00
German Gth	172.10	181.20	+ 1.50	.
-do- Accum	180.50	190.00	+ 1.50	
Growth Port	766.70	815.70†	+ 11.90	0.15
-do- Accum	799.00	850.00	+ 12.30	0.15
High Interest Inc	107.80	111.80†	+ 2.50	6.75
High Interest Acc	121.20	125.60	+ 2.80	6.75
Hi Reserve Inc #	121.40	129.20†	+ 3.50	5.48
Hi Reserve Acc #	138.60	147.50	+ 4.00	5.88
Income Inc #	692.80	737.10	+ 29.90	2.99
Income Acc #	2010.00	2139.00	+ 86.00	2.99
Income Port	667.30	709.90	+ 18.50	3.87
-do- Accum	774.70	824.20	+ 21.60	3.87
Japan Growth	85.98	91.47	- 0.93	
-do- Accum	86.28	91.79	- 0.93	.
Master Trust	76.94	81.86	+ 1.77	1.09
-do- Accum	90.40	96.18	+ 2.08	1.09
Millennium Acc	112.40	119.60	- 0.80	2.04
N American Gen	319.20	339.60	+ 9.00	
-do- Accum	369.50	393.10	+ 10.40	
NAm Smr Co Rec	242.30	257.80	+ 7.80	.
-do- Accum	247.30	263.10	+ 7.80	
Pacific Basin	226.70	241.20	- 6.70	0.52
-do- Accum	241.60	257.10	- 7.20	0.52
Safety First Acc	110.40	116.30	+ 3.10	1.69
On until 12/5/98	99.27		...	
Small Cos Rec	548.30	577.20	+ 19.50	1.94
-do- Accum	763.30	803.50	+ 27.00	1.94
UK Eq Gth	201.80	214.70†	+ 8.80	2.11
UK Eq Inc #	161.90	172.30	+ 5.40	3.58
UK Growth	128.30	136.50	+ 4.00	1.50
-do- Accum	163.70	174.20	+ 5.00	1.50
Worldwide Gth	411.40	437.70	+ 11.50	0.32
-do- Accum	608.60	647.50	+ 17.80	0.32
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 873				
American	116.42	124.42	+ 4.13	0.30
General	131.36	140.94	+ 4.10	2.20
Income	86.88	93.21†	+ 2.72	4.50
International	83.13	89.19	+ 1.82	0.30
Japan	48.77	52.20†	- 1.02	
Fd of Inv Trsts	86.48	92.78	+ 1.09	0.90
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	672.90	710.20†	+ 14.10	0.18
-do- Accum	843.70	890.60†	+ 17.80	0.18
Amer Recovery	874.30	924.60	+ 26.80	0.08
-do- Accum	1011.10	1069.40	+ 31.10	0.08
Amer Smlr Cos	201.00	212.60	+ 5.20	
-do- Accum	205.40	217.20	+ 5.30	
Australasian	223.20	236.00†	+ 3.80	2.14
-do- Accum	285.50	302.00†	+ 4.90	2.14
Capital	1063.40	1124.50†	+ 33.40	2.72
-do- Accum	1301.30	1376.10†	+ 40.90	2.72
Charifund	911.60	920.80	+ 25.50	5.20
-do- Accum	4841.50	4991.00	+ 138.20	5.20
Commodity	460.00	486.40†	+ 5.00	0.59
-do- Accum	681.60	720.80†	+ 7.40	0.59
Compound Gwth	1298.10	1364.30	+ 45.90	2.53
-do- Accum	1442.70	1525.60	+ 51.20	2.53
Corporate Bond	28.00	28.10†	+ 0.23	6.70
Dividend	51.80	54.80	+ 1.60	4.33
-do- Accum	238.80	252.60	+ 7.10	4.33
Equity Income	358.30	378.90†	+ 5.90	5.25
-do- Accum	519.20	549.10†	+ 8.50	5.25
Euro & General	771.10	817.60	+ 32.40	0.51
-do- Accum	997.80	1055.30	+ 41.80	0.51
Euro Dividend	94.90	100.40	+ 3.00	3.29
-do- Accum	124.40	131.60	+ 4.00	3.29
Euro Smlr Cos	59.70	63.10	- 0.20	0.50
-do- Accum	59.90	63.30	+ 0.20	0.50
Extra Yield	535.20	566.00†	+ 17.80	4.89
-do- Accum	1887.30	1996.00†	+ 62.60	4.89
Fund of Inv Tsts	777.80	822.50	+ 13.10	1.36
-do- Accum	1517.40	1604.60	+ 25.60	1.36
General	84.10	88.90	+ 3.50	3.32
-do- Accum	255.70	270.30	+ 10.60	3.32
Gilt Income	67.00	67.11†	+ 1.30	6.20
-do- Accum	214.54	214.88†	+ 4.17	6.20
Gold	53.00	56.00	- 1.10	0.96
-do- Accum	63.90	67.60	- 1.30	0.96
High Income	39.30	41.50	+ 1.60	4.26
-do- Accum	174.50	184.50	+ 6.80	4.26
Intl Growth	97.10	102.70†	+ 2.20	0.64
-do- Accum	172.90	182.80†	+ 3.80	0.64
International Inc	130.90	138.40	+ 3.60	3.82
-do- Accum	212.90	225.10	+ 5.90	3.82
Japan & Gen	30.40	32.10	- 0.90	..
-do- Accum	32.60	34.40	- 1.00	
Japan Smlr Cos	104.40	110.40	- 1.80	
-do- Accum	105.20	111.10	- 1.90	
Managed Gwth	29.80	31.40	+ 0.70	1.43
Managed Income	33.90	35.60†	+ 0.80	4.04
Midland	63.60	67.30	+ 1.20	3.04
-do- Accum	226.30	239.50	+ 4.10	3.04
Pension Ex	1265.30	1297.00	+ 40.60	3.53
Recovery	53.70	56.80	+ 1.90	2.72
-do- Accum	94.60	100.10	+ 3.30	2.72
Second General	83.30	88.10	+ 2.00	3.81
-do- Accum	233.50	247.00	+ 5.60	3.81
Smaller Cos	86.00	89.80†	+ 0.70	3.04
-do- Accum	140.40	148.50†	+ 1.80	3.04
Sth East Asia	358.00	378.60†	- 8.30	1.41
-do- Accum	484.40	512.30†	- 11.10	1.41
Treasury	25.18	25.23†	+ 0.04	6.61
Trustee	50.90	53.80	+ 1.50	4.65
-do- Accum	225.80	238.80	+ 6.60	4.65
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	133.10	141.59	+ 6.60	0.56
Intl Bond	63.07	66.36		3.51
Intl Equity Growth	99.70	105.86	+ 2.92	0.50
N Amer Growth	175.32	185.87†	+ 5.86	0.58
Special Sits Growth	33.51	35.64†	+ 0.92	2.10
UK Growth	561.64	597.48	+ 17.19	2.39
-do- Accum	783.43	833.43	+ 23.98	2.39
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1568.70	1597.10	+ 24.10	2.70
Income #	1145.90	1163.60		4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	185.10	189.40	.	3.63
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	102.80	105.90†	+ 2.40	6.10
Investment Pflo	207.70	214.10	+ 4.70	2.06
-do- Accum	251.60	259.40	+ 5.70	2.06
UK Select Pflo	191.80	197.70	+ 5.80	2.07
-do- Accum	235.90	243.20	+ 7.10	2.07
UK 100 Cos	148.80	148.80†	+ 5.30	2.23
-do- Accum	154.80	154.80†	+ 5.50	2.23
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	77.49	82.44	+ 1.30	3.02
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	99.57	105.70†	+ 2.60	3.36
European	126.20	134.00	+ 4.40	0.33
Income #	99.99	106.10†	+ 3.10	4.15
Nth American	130.50	138.50	+ 3.10	0.09
Far East	179.40	190.40	- 2.60	
Japan	59.37	63.03	- 0.92	
Emging Mkts	102.60	109.70	+ 1.30	0.42
Intl Growth	158.80	168.60	+ 3.40	0.39
UK Growth	145.90	154.90	+ 3.80	2.43
UK Smlr Co	65.86	69.92	+ 0.58	1.83
Asia Pacific	37.36	39.96	- 0.64	0.72
Glob Gwth PEP	76.64	81.35	+ 2.20	0.55
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	115.20	122.60	+ 0.50	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	564.97	601.03†	+ 22.17	3.11
Global Inc	89.19	94.88†	+ 2.93	2.63
Brit Leaders Inc	446.06	474.53†	+ 17.71	1.74
Intl Leaders	292.42	311.09†	+ 11.35	0.87
PAM Mg Bal Grth	77.53	80.72†	+ 0.90	0.33
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	357.70	377.10	+ 13.60	.
-do- Accum	382.50	403.30	+ 14.70	
American Opps	147.20	155.90	+ 1.30	.
-do- Accum	149.00	157.90	+ 1.30	
British Blue Chip	120.30	128.10	+ 3.80	2.35
-do- Accum	157.60	167.00	+ 4.90	2.35
Cash	100.90	100.90	+ 0.10	6.60
-do- Accum	154.90	154.90	+ 0.20	6.60
Emerging Mkts	163.50	175.80	+ 2.80	0.17
-do- Accum	165.70	178.20	+ 2.80	0.17
European Growth	413.90	437.90†	+ 18.70	0.43
-do- Accum	451.80	478.00†	+ 20.60	0.43
European Income	103.20	109.20	+ 3.10	3.71
-do- Accum	155.40	164.50	+ 4.60	3.71
General	705.00	748.40†	+ 22.70	2.11
-do- Accum	1471.00	1561.00†	+ 47.00	2.11
Global Bond	128.10	134.70†	- 2.10	4.17
-do- Accum	178.20	187.30†	+ 1.50	4.17
Gold & General	151.90	162.90	- 6.00	0.45
-do- Accum	157.20	168.60	- 6.20	0.45
Govt Securities	99.67	102.70	+ 1.50	5.48
-do- Accum	219.30	226.00	+ 3.20	5.48
High Yield Bd	107.30	109.90†	+ 1.80	6.38
-do- Accum	120.20	123.30†	+ 2.00	6.38
Income	232.00	246.40†	+ 7.20	3.65
-do- Accum	398.50	423.10†	+ 12.20	3.65
Inc Portfolio #	127.70	135.20	+ 3.30	4.73
-do- Accum #	144.20	152.60	+ 3.70	4.73
Intl Opps	664.50	698.10	+ 8.20	0.71
-do- Accum	809.20	848.50	+ 11.10	0.71
Japan	162.20	172.80	- 2.20	.
-do- Accum	166.50	177.40	- 2.20	
New Europe	287.10	306.20	+ 9.80	0.92
-do- Accum	301.40	321.50	+ 10.40	0.92
Pacific	99.37	106.00	- 2.60	0.20
-do- Accum	107.20	114.30	- 2.80	0.20
Recovery	543.70	579.90	+ 19.30	1.56
-do- Accum	723.80	772.10	+ 13.60	1.56
UK Smaller Cos	65.74	70.12†	+ 2.18	1.45
-do- Accum	76.94	82.12†	+ 2.57	1.45
Portfolio	108.70	115.20	+ 3.10	2.54
-do- Accum	136.00	144.10	+ 3.90	2.54
Managed Gth	141.30	147.50	+ 3.30	1.72
Managed Inc	137.40	142.60	+ 3.90	3.78
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	193.97	208.35	+ 8.68	0.12
Portfolio	94.08	100.09	+ 2.87	1.20
UK Income Inc	111.72	118.85†	+ 3.50	3.98
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	79.71	83.47	+ 2.37	2.48
-do- Accum	89.22	93.42	+ 2.66	2.48
British Tst	133.00	139.30	+ 5.50	1.87
-do- Accum	162.60	170.30	+ 6.70	1.87
Corp Bond Inc	104.50	108.30	+ 1.60	6.37
-do- Accum	112.80	116.90	+ 1.80	6.37
Extra High Inc	83.11	87.03	+ 3.02	5.95
-do- Accum #	186.80	195.60	+ 6.80	5.95
FTSE 100 Acc	90.74	95.02	+ 3.76	1.91
FTSE 100 Dist	83.51	87.44	+ 3.46	1.91
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.53	60.89†	+ 0.82	6.06
-do- Accum	196.50	204.40†	+ 2.70	6.06
High Yield	285.90	299.40	+ 10.80	5.45
-do- Accum #	820.10	858.70	+ 31.00	5.45
Household Names	175.30	115.90†	+ 4.00	1.25
Income	391.50	409.90	+ 14.80	3.66
-do- Accum #	952.30	997.20	+ 36.20	3.66
Money Market UT	49.56	49.57	+ 0.04	5.93
-do- Accum	86.78	86.80	+ 0.07	5.93
Monthly Income	113.16	118.40†	+ 3.80	3.82
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	169.60	180.40	+ 7.00	1.83
European Growth	175.30	185.70	+ 2.50	
Gilt & Fixed	110.90	117.60	+ 1.60	5.97
Income	130.80	139.20	+ 4.90	3.71
Japan Growth	40.16	42.57	- 1.87	
Managed	97.67	103.90	+ 2.50	2.30
Money Market	100.30	106.30	+ 0.10	5.14
North American	143.60	152.30	+ 2.70	.
Midland FSAVCS Unit Tst				
British	153.80	163.60	+ 6.40	1.83
European Growth	164.40	174.20	+ 2.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int	103.60	109.90	+ 1.40	5.99
Income	128.10	136.30	+ 4.70	3.71
Japan Growth	40.09	42.49	- 1.82	
Managed	91.27	89.22	+ 3.10	2.30
Money Market	92.39	97.95	+ 0.10	5.14
North American	128.60	136.30	+ 2.30	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Tst				
British	152.40	162.10	+ 6.40	1.83
European Growth	160.60	170.30	+ 2.40	
Gilt & Fixed Int	93.25	98.89	+ 1.35	5.99
Income	124.50	132.40	+ 4.70	3.72
Japan Growth	41.13	43.60	- 1.89	
Managed	96.07	102.20	+ 2.43	2.30
Money Market	83.57	88.60	+ 0.07	5.15
North American	143.90	152.60	+ 2.60	.
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	603.40	638.50	+ 20.10	
European Gth Inc	669.70	718.80	+ 24.80	
-do- Accum	677.00	718.60	+ 25.10	
Intl Gwth	277.10	293.20	+ 8.80	
UK Equity Inc	262.70	279.20	+ 9.70	3.68
Do Accum	363.90	386.70	+ 13.40	3.68
UK Growth Inc	152.30	162.80†	+ 4.40	2.94
-do- Accum	158.50	169.50†	+ 4.70	2.94
UK Ind Trckr Inc	236.80	252.70†	+ 8.30	2.64
-do- Accum	298.50	319.60†	+ 10.60	2.64
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	374.70	396.00†	+ 14.20	0.88
Japan Tracker	57.68	60.84	- 0.62	
Asian Tracker	207.90	225.00	- 6.30	0.31
Mngd Ptflo Inc	216.20	230.00	+ 6.00	1.53
Mngd Ptflo Acc	239.30	254.60	+ 6.60	1.53
Deposit Inc	100.11	100.11†	+ 0.10	6.58
Europa	289.70	300.00†	+ 5.30	.
Genesis	222.80	242.00	+ 2.10	2.33
High Income	21.57	22.86	+ 0.46	10.00
Japan Growth	88.27	93.69†	- 0.02	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Acumen	123.50	126.10	+ 2.50	1.92
Acumen Inc	111.10	113.40	+ 2.20	1.92
Acumen Reserve	106.20	107.30	+ 1.90	6.48
-do- Inc	78.65	79.44	+ 1.30	6.48
Americas Growth	91.02	93.13†	+ 2.61	
Equity Income #	126.30	129.50†	+ 3.60	3.74
European	100.20	102.10†	+ 1.60	
Smaller Cos	98.48	103.00	- 0.70	1.65
W'wide Eqty	91.38	93.35†	+ 2.07	
Global Bond	42.18	42.62†	+ 0.29	4.87
UK Growth	131.70	135.80	+ 2.80	1.16
Pacific Growth	112.90	115.90	- 0.50	1.26
Japan Growth	88.49	90.05	- 0.41	
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	183.55	195.27	+ 5.84	1.83
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
Americas Dist	160.50	168.90	+ 5.60	
European Dist	188.70	198.60	+ 7.20	0.30
Far East Dist	164.80	173.90†	- 3.70	
Global Care Dist	100.24	105.52	+ 1.59	0.53
Overs Dist	1232.60	1297.50†	+ 16.60	
-do- Accum	1606.60	1691.20	+ 21.70	
UK Dist	525.40	553.00	+ 19.70	1.50
-do- Accum	1086.80	1144.00	+ 40.50	1.50
UK Extra Inc Dist	107.50	113.20†	+ 2.80	3.17
Wwide Dist	131.60	138.50	+ 2.30	
Wwide Inc Dist	101.20	106.50	+ 1.22	1.38
NATWEST UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Dlg: 01277 690 280 Admin Enq: 01277 690 398				
Europe Inc	99.43	105.00	+ 4.80	0.30
Fund of Funds Inc	79.32	83.72	+ 1.67	1.19
North America Inc	85.21	89.93	+ 2.39	0.10
UK Equity Grth Inc	81.56	86.08	+ 2.97	1.86
-do- Accum	89.47	94.43	+ 3.25	1.86
UK General Inc	79.27	83.66	+ 1.95	1.92
-do- Accum	88.84	93.76	+ 2.19	1.92
UK Gilt/Fx Int Inc	49.83	52.47	+ 0.61	5.98
UK Income Inc	78.82	83.19†	+ 2.86	2.88
UK Smlr Cos Inc	126.40	133.40	+ 1.80	1.10
NEWTON FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0800 614 330 Dealing: 0500 440 000				
American	66.79	71.05	+ 1.40	0.16
-do- Accum	67.31	71.60	+ 1.40	
Bond	134.89	143.15	+ 2.90	4.68
Cash Income	50.93	50.93	+ 0.05	6.33
-do- Accum	72.10	72.10	+ 0.07	6.33
Challenger	94.71	97.72	+ 2.06	0.91
Distributor	122.82	130.65†	+ 4.42	2.54
European	74.45	79.20	+ 3.65	
Foundation	127.64	135.78†	+ 3.99	1.65
General Inc	266.24	283.23	+ 1.93	1.02
General Acc	271.92	289.27	+ 1.97	1.02
Growth Inc	165.09	175.62	+ 5.16	1.72
Growth Acc	171.23	182.15	+ 5.35	1.72
Higher Income Inc	39.17	41.67†	+ 1.17	5.38
-do- Accum	49.67	52.83†	+ 1.49	5.38
Income	323.28	343.91	+ 10.55	3.52
Managed	170.79	177.90	+ 1.06	1.04
Intl Gwth	47.00	50.00	+ 1.74	.
Japan	26.99	28.54†	- 0.37	0.17
Oriental Inc	145.06	154.31†	- 2.27	0.33
-do- Accum	150.39	159.99†	- 2.39	0.33
NORTHERN ROCK UNIT TRUST LTD				
0191 285 2555				
High Income #	55.75	58.99	+ 1.80	5.62
UK Growth	134.20	142.00	+ 1.20	2.52
NORWICH UNION TST MANAGERS				
01603 682 234				
Master Trust	159.87	168.39†	+ 3.83	0.71
UK Equity	204.50	215.35†	+ 6.74	2.54
UK Equity Income	183.91	193.59	+ 5.43	3.09
UK Smaller Cos	155.31	163.48	+ 0.60	1.30
UK Equity Growth	172.31	181.38†	+ 3.63	1.25
UK Index Trckg	205.14	216.57†	+ 6.57	2.30
Intl Index Trckg	203.20	214.56†	+ 6.16	0.62
International	320.67	337.55	+ 8.86	0.66
European	322.53	339.51†	+ 13.24	.
Pan European	216.57	227.97	+ 9.02	0.83
Nth American	312.01	328.43	+ 13.19	0.17
N Amer Smlr Cos	344.62	362.76	+ 13.20	
Japanese	87.14	95.41	- 1.22	
Pacific	215.09	226.41	- 3.29	0.35
South East Asian	245.36	258.29	- 7.22	0.94
Sterling Bond	107.78	113.45	+ 2.09	6.27
Intl Bond	127.42	134.12	+ 1.07	3.83
Gilt & Convertible	116.70	122.84	+ 2.13	5.78
Property	89.49	94.20	- 0.24	5.38
OLD MUTUAL FUND MGRS LTD				
01256 768 888				
European Inc	455.80	489.60	+ 15.20	0.20
-do- Accum	484.40	520.30	+ 16.20	0.20
Japan Inc	89.52	94.93	- 0.36	
Nth American Inc	204.30	216.10†	+ 5.80	0.07
Worldwide Inc	216.80	232.40†	- 6.10	0.08
Hong Kong Inc	233.50	250.50†	- 6.00	0.40
Swiss Equities Inc	116.60	124.20	- 7.40	
Wwide Bond Inc	68.51	72.44†	+ 0.66	4.65
Emgng Asia Inc	175.50	190.40	- 5.50	
-do- Accum	177.20	191.00	- 5.60	
UK Money Mkt Inc	50.34	50.34†	- 3.05	5.74
Thailand Inc	53.12	58.06	- 2.91	2.50
New Zealand Inc	105.80	113.40	- 2.50	1.86
Intl Mngd PEP Inc	86.90	92.86	+ 2.84	0.42
Latin Am Cmp Inc	93.32	99.95	- 4.19	0.39
UK Af Sh Mkr Inc	86.22	87.53	+ 2.93	2.04
Broker Unit Trusts				
Way Global Blue	92.12	98.00	+ 0.35	
Global Portfolio	81.25	86.97	+ 0.28	
Way Global Red	72.44	77.06	+ 0.45	
Marsh Global Gth	68.69	73.05	+ 0.86	
AMR Brit Gwth Inc	129.00	139.10	+ 4.10	0.70
Temple Equity Inc	53.15	57.69	+ 0.57	1.59
Hartley Growth	140.20	149.10	+ 3.30	0.67
Intl Growth Inc	87.96	94.07†	+ 0.65	.
IPS Portfolio Inc	108.40	114.70	+ 0.80	..
Roxburgh Strat Gth	83.36	89.05	- 0.34	0.16
UFC Growth	74.10	79.25	+ 0.94	0.60
Chantfield Port of Fds	59.58	63.21	- 0.39	
PM UT MGRS LTD				
0171 588 3963				
Equity Gth	273.10	290.50	+ 9.00	0.81
European Gth	169.10	179.30	+ 7.00	0.33
Income & Gth #	185.90	197.80†	+ 6.30	2.68
Japan Gth	92.40	98.25	- 2.45	
Nth Amer Gth	296.40	314.20	+ 6.30	0.08
Overseas Gth	143.70	152.60	+ 1.90	
PEARL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Dlg: 0800 626 577 Enq: 01733 470 470				
Equity	340.60	362.30	+ 10.50	1.72
-do- Accum	760.90	809.40	+ 23.40	1.72
Growth	218.00	229.40	+ 6.50	2.13
Income	328.50	349.40	+ 8.90	3.15
Intl Equity	320.70	341.20†	+ 7.80	0.11
-do- Accum	360.20	383.20	+ 8.60	0.11
Equity Income #	87.61	93.20	+ 2.56	4.60
Equity Growth	114.60	122.00	+ 3.50	1.32
New Europe	131.60	140.00	+ 4.50	
PERPETUAL UNIT TST MGMT				
01491 417 000				
Intl Growth Inc	831.00	887.57	+ 22.13	0.21
-do- Accum	836.16	893.08	+ 22.26	0.21
Income	549.81	588.04	+ 17.99	2.68
Wwide Recovery	546.48	584.42	+ 15.74	0.16
Amer Growth Inc	376.09	402.08	+ 8.99	0.01
-do- Accum	378.09	402.08	+ 8.99	0.01
Intl Emerging Cos	323.46	345.96	+ 8.15	0.03
Far Estn Grth Inc	297.93	318.65	- 3.81	0.56
-do- Accum	301.65	322.63	- 3.86	0.56
Euro Gwth Inc	241.58	257.69	+ 9.14	0.01
-do- Accum	242.42	258.58	+ 9.17	0.01
UK Growth Inc	139.29	148.98	+ 4.63	2.35
-do- Accum	153.09	163.74	+ 5.09	2.35
High Income	141.50	151.34	+ 4.92	3.24
Jap Gwth Inc	159.69	170.80	- 3.41	0.01
-do- Accum	159.69	170.80	- 3.41	0.01
PEP Bond	63.26	65.95	+ 1.43	6.87
PEP Growth	176.50	188.57	+ 4.70	0.53
Asian Sh Mkts Inc	131.98	141.16	- 2.56	0.16
-do- Accum	132.40	141.61	- 2.58	0.16
Amer Smlr Co Inc	249.26	265.23	+ 6.18	0.01
-do- Accum	249.26	265.23	+ 6.18	0.01
Global Bond	55.70	58.71†	+ 0.68	4.89
UK Smaller Cos Inc	113.33	121.21	+ 0.56	1.92
-do- Accum	122.75	131.29	+ 0.62	1.92
Lat Am Gwth Inc	47.18	50.39	+ 1.02	0.01
-do- Accum	47.94	51.20	+ 1.04	0.01
World Inc PEP #	51.10	54.08†	+ 1.13	4.00
PILGRIM UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0191 201 3927				
American	174.14	185.26	+ 1.15	
European	121.94	129.72†	+ 2.90	
Global	74.53	79.29	- 0.87	
Pacific	55.77	59.11	- 2.13	
UK Inc & Grth	93.39	99.35†	+ 1.89	1.37
PORTFOLIO FUND MGMT LTD				
Enq. 0171 638 0808 Dlg: 0171 588 8890				
Asia	55.73	58.38	- 1.00	
Emerg Mkts	54.79	58.13†	+ 0.58	0.28
Euro Fund	51.91	56.08	+ 1.45	
Fund of Funds	224.59	239.45	+ 3.20	0.03
High Income #	59.36	62.48†	+ 1.05	5.60
Performance	56.10	59.52	+ 0.54	
PREMIER PORTFOLIO MGRS LTD				
01483 456 832				
Special Sits	242.60	259.50	- 1.90	0.49
Dividend	118.20	126.40	+ 3.90	3.56
Inf Gth & Inc	283.10	301.60	+ 9.00	1.32
UK & Gen	57.59	61.59†	+ 2.02	1.11
Fund of Funds	85.11	91.03†	+ 0.71	
PRINCIPAL UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01732 740 700				
Principal Tst	197.76	205.58	+ 5.14	2.27
PROLIFIC UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 0171 280 3700 Dealing: 0800 262 443				
American Income	158.70	168.50†	+ 4.50	1.96
Conv & Gilt	128.60	136.80	+ 7.00	4.11
Euro Spc Sit Acc	122.60	130.40	+ 2.60	.
Extra Income	212.30	225.80†	+ 2.50	4.06
-do- Accum	288.90	307.30	+ 7.80	4.06
Far East	382.90	407.30	- 5.60	0.66
-do- Accum	391.80	416.80	- 4.80	0.66
Global Income	30.86	32.74†	+ 0.73	4.20
High Income	163.80	174.20	+ 5.20	3.88
-do- Accum	214.30	228.00	+ 6.70	3.88
International	251.70	267.80	+ 4.90	0.21
-do- Accum	262.20	278.90	+ 5.00	0.21
Pref & Fxd Int	49.97	53.16†	+ 0.83	6.17
Recovery	100.50	107.00	+ 1.30	2.41
Special Sits	162.70	173.00	+ 1.20	1.61
-do- Accum	182.70	194.30	+ 1.40	1.61
Technology	882.90	939.30	+ 11.00	
UK Blue Chip	107.20	114.10	+ 3.60	2.67
-do- Accum	128.40	136.60	+ 4.20	2.67
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
UT Dealing: 0345 406080 Client Enq: 0345 835500				
Managed Tst	50.76	52.60†	+ 0.89	1.66
Cash Haven Inc	101.38	101.67†	+ 0.09	6.05
Cash Haven Acc	123.87	124.28	+ 0.12	6.05
Dist Trust Inc	118.39	122.68	+ 3.12	4.86
Dist Trust Acc	137.84	142.84	+ 7.64	4.86
Global Growth	120.72	128.43†	+ 3.22	0.66
Equity Inc	100.67	107.10†	+ 1.21	4.07
Equity	1068.79	1137.01	+ 37.87	1.73
European	347.44	360.04	+ 16.32	0.23
High Income	104.03	110.67†	+ 2.83	4.73
Intl Gwth	248.01	263.84	+ 5.20	1.01
Intl Sm Co	104.09	110.73	+ 1.23	0.79
Japanese	155.45	161.10†	- 7.40	
Mgd Income Tst #	50.30	51.99†	+ 0.78	7.58
Nth Amer	322.16	333.32	+ 11.46	0.81
Pacific Mkts	107.19	111.08†	- 1.80	1.16
Premier Inc	50.01	52.04	+ 0.86	6.01
Sm Cos	114.54	121.85	+ 0.63	1.70
Spec Sits	148.35	157.82	+ 4.56	1.68
UK Growth	179.38	190.83†	+ 6.24	1.62
QUILTER FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Hi Inc Inv Inc	96.91	101.98†	+ 0.94	3.46
Investment Trust	131.27	138.03†	+ 1.08	0.31
UK Smaller Cos	115.91	121.88	+ 4.85	1.68
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	419.40	444.80	+ 13.10	2.12
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1000 Client Services: 0800 124 314				
Five Arrows Funds				
America (Inc)	983.50	1019.26	- 130.96	
America (Acc)	1128.93	1194.27	+ 22.85	
Amer Smlr Cos	86.15	90.81	+ 1.50	
Asia	48.38	51.66	- 1.02	...
European	508.43	540.03	+ 22.98	
Japan	195.16	207.95	- 0.03	.
Jap Smllr Cos	26.69	28.44	- 1.00	...
Major UK Cos	143.88	153.17	+ 6.02	1.10
Smllr UK Cos	457.62	487.70	+ 2.39	1.14
UK Equity Inc #	216.23	230.79	+ 7.11	2.54
Five Arrows Portfolio Fund				
Asia Pacific	50.64	52.88	- 1.37	
Cash	48.42	50.43	+ 0.03	3.81
Emerging Mkts	57.56	60.11	- 0.69	
Europe	77.35	80.78	+ 2.69	
Global Fixed Int #	50.54	52.78	+ 0.44	4.23
Japan	35.41	36.98	- 1.28	
North America	88.30	92.21	+ 1.51	
UK	77.93	81.38	+ 1.92	0.41
UK Equity Inc #	72.27	75.47	+ 2.16	3.36
UK Fixed Int #	53.54	55.91	+ 0.96	6.99
Portfolio Service PEP				
Pep Grth Port	59.39	61.54	+ 0.98	
Pep Inc Port #	59.00	61.13	+ 1.44	2.87
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	170.50	180.70†	+ 3.90	0.23
Pacific Basin	76.28	81.65	- 1.15	0.31
High Inc Dist	198.20	210.90†	+ 3.70	3.35
Ryl Life Intl Cmry	68.05	71.87†	+ 0.96	3.95
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	91.97	97.76	+ 1.24	
Ryl Life Intl Spec	80.88	86.04	+ 1.28	
UK Emerging Cos	138.30	149.50	+ 0.30	1.17
UK Index Trckg	244.80	260.00	+ 8.30	3.08
European	220.60	236.30	+ 6.00	0.14
Managed	215.30	231.50	+ 5.50	0.84
ROYAL LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01206 764 400				
American Growth	252.10	267.50	+ 4.20	0.99
European Growth	188.80	200.50†	+ 5.90	1.08
Far East Growth	150.80	160.50	- 4.60	0.88
Japan Growth	102.50	108.90	- 6.30	0.53
Special Sits	265.80	282.70†	+ 1.70	1.80
UK Growth	127.00	135.10	+ 4.50	2.53
Intl Growth	335.30	356.80	+ 3.30	1.82
ST JAMES'S PLACE UT GROUP LTD				
0141 307 8500				
Far East Inc	155.90	165.00	- 3.40	0.38
Gtr Euro Prog Inc	536.60	566.80	+ 15.70	0.69
-do- Accum	840.60	889.50	+ 24.60	0.69
Growth Inc	179.00	189.40	+ 2.90	0.18
-do- Accum	184.30	195.00	+ 3.00	0.18
International Inc	476.60	504.30	+ 9.80	0.21
-do- Accum	661.10	699.60	+ 13.70	0.21
Nth Am & Intl Inc	504.10	533.40	+ 3.20	
UK Gen Prog Inc	295.70	310.80	+ 7.90	1.65
-do- Accum	340.40	360.20	+ 9.20	1.65
UK High Inc Inc	175.40	185.60	+ 5.60	4.36
SANWA INTL INVEST SERVICES LTD				
0171 330 0572				
Asian Gwth	123.84	131.74	- 2.91	0.75
European Gwth	120.47	128.16	+ 3.03	1.00
Global Bd	61.22	64.67†	+ 0.49	5.00
Japan	48.10	51.16	- 0.28	
UK Gwth	102.68	109.23	+ 2.26	1.75
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP				
Clients: 0800 829 100 Brokerline: 0800 727 770				
Amer Smlr Cos	195.40	207.90	+ 3.90	.
Cash	141.50	141.50†	+ 0.70	6.47
China Dragon	89.13	94.82	- 2.82	0.32
Commodity	143.10	152.20	+ 0.30	
Emerging Mkts	46.24	49.19	+ 0.59	0.37
European Gwth	307.60	327.20	+ 11.00	
Euro Smllr Cos	83.79	89.14	+ 1.75	
Extra Income #	65.96	68.35†	+ 1.60	5.12
Far Eastern	94.28	100.30	- 1.30	
FE Sm Cos	43.09	45.84	- 0.26	0.53
Financial Secs	410.20	436.40	+ 14.30	1.29
Gold & Exploration	58.66	62.40	- 2.51	
Growth	544.00	546.70	+ 16.50	1.47
High Income	52.52	52.52†	+ 1.01	6.60
Intl Bond	159.60	168.50†	+ 0.80	5.10
ITU	271.10	288.40	+ 4.80	0.74
Japan Growth	137.80	146.20†	- 1.90	
Japan Smaller	119.70	126.90	- 4.50	
Korea	36.52	38.85	- 1.19	..
Latin America	58.20	61.92	+ 2.34	0.22
Masterfund	74.45	74.82	+ 1.56	0.74
Premier Eq Grth	204.50	217.60	+ 5.80	0.73
Premier Eq Inc #	444.20	472.60	+ 13.00	3.97
SE Asia	44.26	47.09	- 1.18	0.01
Southern Africa	57.53	61.20†	+ 0.85	1.17
UK & O'seas	240.20	255.50	+ 6.90	1.11
UK Eqty Gth	101.80	108.30	+ 2.90	0.86
UK Eqty Inc #	316.80	337.00	+ 9.80	3.85
UK Grth & Inc #	370.40	394.00	+ 12.50	2.71
UK Sm Cos	63.64	67.70	+ 0.80	1.03
US Growth	286.40	304.60	+ 10.00	.
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
Clnt: 0800 526 535 Brkr: 0800 526 540				
Retail Funds				
American	440.18	465.14	+ 13.28	0.59
-do- Accum	488.58	516.28	+ 14.74	0.59
European Gwth	115.28	122.23	+ 3.57	0.25
Euro Smllr Cos	130.83	139.07	+ 3.10	..
-do- Accum	132.71	141.07	+ 3.14	
Far Eastern Gth	105.92	112.98	- 1.42	.
-do- Accum	107.97	115.17	- 1.44	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	55.11	58.06†	+ 0.92	7.41
Global Bond #	47.24	48.81	+ 0.09	6.00
-do- Accum #	59.15	61.11	+ 0.11	6.00
Global Emg Mkts	60.60	64.53	- 0.09	
-do- Accum	60.65	64.59	- 0.09	
Income #	497.03	530.16†	+ 13.31	4.57
-do- Accum #	1750.74	1867.47†	+ 46.88	4.57
Japan Smllr Cos	276.76	295.21	- 6.55	
-do- Accum	277.32	295.80	- 6.56	.
Japan Enterprise	58.72	62.63	- 1.40	
Pacific Gwth	147.80	157.65†	- 4.63	0.33
-do- Accum	153.65	163.89†	- 4.81	0.33
Portfolio	109.98	117.09†	+ 2.45	1.61
-do- Accum	124.30	132.33†	+ 2.76	1.61
Seoul	31.23	33.31	- 0.96	.
-do- Accum	31.23	33.31	- 0.96	
Smaller Cos	359.21	383.15	+ 1.17	1.08
-do- Accum	430.22	458.90	+ 1.40	1.08
Strategic Inc	115.07	122.67†	+ 2.54	2.52
Strategic Acc	118.00	125.79†	+ 2.60	2.52
Tokyo	118.93	126.85†	- 0.06	
-do- Accum	120.13	128.13†	- 0.06	
UK Enterprise	396.46	422.89	+ 14.78	1.93
-do- Accum	501.99	535.46	+ 18.72	1.93
UK Equity	368.69	393.26	+ 12.66	2.12
-do- Accum	761.85	812.64	+ 26.14	2.12
US Smllr Cos	334.79	356.56	+ 6.22	
-do- Accum	334.79	356.56	+ 6.22	..
Institutional Funds				
European	375.47	388.93	+ 14.72	0.90
-do- Accum	427.89	443.24	+ 16.78	0.90
Euro Smllr Cos	42.00	43.71	+ 0.80	0.87
-do- Accum	45.59	47.44	+ 0.86	0.87
Global Equity Inc	107.63	112.01	+ 2.36	0.72
Japan Smllr Cos	26.56	27.65	- 0.74	0.13
-do- Accum	26.86	27.97	- 0.76	0.13
Mngd Balanced	254.64	265.25†	+ 5.74	3.58
-do- Accum	306.62	319.39†	+ 6.90	3.58
Overseas Equity	245.32	256.54	+ 3.56	0.83
-do- Accum	259.47	270.27	+ 3.76	0.83
O'seas Smllr Cos	141.70	147.60†	+ 0.38	0.78
-do- Accum	151.06	157.37†	+ 0.42	0.79
Pacific	263.00	273.95	- 7.94	1.59
-do- Accum	294.62	306.90	- 8.89	1.59
Recovery	2651.72	2762.20	+ 52.73	3.03
-do- Accum	2996.18	3121.02	+ 59.58	3.05
UK Index	225.97	235.38†	+ 7.07	2.85
-do- Accum	299.64	312.11†	+ 9.36	2.85
UK Small Cos	152.94	159.31†	+ 0.72	2.68
-do- Accum	173.30	180.51†	+ 0.81	2.68
US Smllr Cos	88.02	91.45	+ 1.56	0.63
-do- Accum	90.56	94.09	+ 1.61	0.63
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UT MGRS LTD				
0141 204 2200				
Equity Income	73.68	77.92	+ 2.89	2.35
Equity Trust	95.37	100.85	+ 3.71	2.55
Equity Strategy	101.60	107.44	+ 1.88	1.48
European Opps	133.86	141.56	+ 4.84	0.08
UK Smaller Cos	81.66	86.36	+ 0.33	1.48
Maximum Inc	98.90	101.48	+ 0.10	7.86
Japanese	58.70	62.08	- 1.87	.
Asia Pacific	111.27	117.67	- 2.42	0.52
American	180.74	191.13	+ 6.73	0.93
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE FD MGRS LTD				
0800 454 422				
Cash	34.79	34.79†	+ 0.03	6.72
UK Eq Gwth Inc	73.56	78.43†	+ 2.63	3.00
-do- Accum	102.25	109.01†	+ 3.65	3.00
Intl Income	350.24	372.55	+ 11.44	1.42
-do- Accum	622.34	661.99	+ 20.33	1.42
European	132.50	140.67	+ 5.62	1.35
Japan	54.86	58.11	- 0.45	0.19
American	133.77	141.26†	+ 4.92	1.17
Far East Tact	83.29	88.84	- 1.47	1.39
Ethical Inc	43.91	46.97	+ 0.23	1.56
UK Blue Chip Inc	49.27	52.63†	+ 1.70	3.38
UK Equity Inc	51.11	54.52	+ 1.63	4.17
UK Global Inc	57.57	61.38†	+ 2.21	1.86
Wwide Tact	100.04	106.43	+ 3.09	1.01
Europe Tactical	94.45	100.65	+ 3.40	0.98
Technology	193.62	205.29	+ 3.10	0.71
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
0131 225 2211				
UK Equity	609.10	648.30	+ 23.30	2.47
American	441.90	467.50	+ 14.70	0.20
Pacific	374.40	400.40	- 5.40	0.23
European	805.50	861.50	+ 27.40	0.64
Worldwide	108.10	115.60	+ 1.30	0.20
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MGRS LTD				
0141 248 6100				
UK Equity Inc	402.90	428.70	+ 15.60	1.97
-do- Accum	540.00	574.50	+ 20.90	1.97
UK Sir Co Eq Inc	293.50	312.30	+ 1.40	1.53
-do- Accum	365.20	388.60	+ 1.80	1.53
Select Opprtnty Inc	97.98	104.80	+ 3.10	1.86
Income Plus Inc	101.80	108.30	+ 3.00	2.83
European Inc	565.40	600.00	+ 25.60	0.71
-do- Accum	661.80	691.50	+ 29.50	0.71
Far Eastern Inc	174.10	185.30	- 3.70	0.57
-do- Accum	202.50	215.50	- 4.30	0.57
Japanese Inc	51.63	54.93	- 0.71	
Nth American Inc	447.30	474.90	+ 13.90	0.11
-do- Accum	495.50	526.00	+ 15.30	0.11
Intl Growth Inc	259.30	275.90	+ 3.70	0.29
Wwide Ventures Inc	112.60	119.80	+ 2.60	0.32
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 668 3724				
Equity Inc	539.10	569.50	+ 16.10	2.09
-do- Accum	835.00	882.20	+ 25.00	2.09
UK High Inc	260.60	275.30	+ 7.10	2.04
-do- Accum	408.10	431.10	+ 11.20	2.04
Europe Inc	609.00	643.50	+ 23.20	0.25
Nth Amer Inc	401.80	424.20	+ 11.30	
Global Inc	298.00	314.90	+ 8.50	0.21
Global Acc	323.60	341.90	+ 9.40	0.21
UK Spec Sits Inc	155.60	164.40	+ 3.50	2.06
South East Asia	196.00	207.10	- 3.00	0.40
Cash Trust Inc	101.40	101.40	+ 0.10	6.43
UK Smlr Cos Inc	129.70	137.00	+ 1.10	1.87
-do- Accum	138.90	146.70	+ 1.20	1.87
Intl Bond Inc	90.68	95.26	+ 0.40	4.52
International Strat	91.47	96.87	+ 0.58	
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	201.90	212.50	+ 7.30	0.09
Nth American	178.00	187.40	+ 5.60	
Intl Bond & Conv	134.50	141.60	+ 2.30	5.97
Pooled Pension	274.70	295.40	+ 7.20	1.96
Smaller Cos	126.40	133.90	+ 0.90	1.18
UK General #	200.50	211.00	+ 5.60	2.04
Far Eastern	83.38	87.77	- 0.48	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Continental	113.00	119.30	+ 3.30	0.77
Global Gwth	94.63	100.00	+ 3.12	1.02
Inv Tst Port	63.03	67.05	+ 0.65	2.26
Managed	1505.31	1574.71	+ 39.04	1.53
Pref Inc #	109.70	116.60	+ 2.30	6.27
Smaller Cos	286.00	304.20	+ 2.80	0.80
Inland SIB Recognised				
UK Equity Inc ‡	106.87		- 3.22	4.49
Sterling Reserve ‡	102.19		+ 0.11	5.00
Corporate Inc ‡	101.46		+ 2.14	5.71
Tal Pan ‡	111.20		- 2.30	
Aftec ‡	96.08		+ 3.94	
Amer Gilt Fund ‡	175.74		+ 7.64	.
European ‡	202.45		+ 7.01	
Global Bond ‡	91.91		+ 1.53	6.75
Samurai ‡	50.04		- 0.27	
UK Growth ‡	125.62		+ 5.32	2.46
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	96.28		+ 0.03	3.31
Investment Trust ‡	122.49		+ 1.31	2.21
The Football Fd ‡	87.69		+ 0.16	
Reserve Roll Up ‡	100.54		+ 0.80	.
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	580.30	614.10	+ 10.70	
Capital	166.50	176.20	+ 3.70	1.12
Cash	100.05	100.05†	+ 2.29	6.39
European	198.80	210.20	+ 5.60	0.23
Far Eastern	166.40	176.10†	- 6.40	0.22
Growth	198.20	209.70	+ 6.00	1.30
Income #	157.40	166.60†	+ 4.30	4.88
Magnum	175.90	188.10	+ 3.90	1.18
Smlr Secs	629.40	666.10	+ 16.00	0.11
Thoroughbred	206.80	218.90	+ 4.40	1.20
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0800 73 11 093				
Cntrctd Primnce	59.13	63.20†	+ 0.70	7.80
Ethical	88.66	94.82	+ 0.99	1.16
European Growth	101.00	107.10	+ 5.20	
Income	71.15	76.09	+ 2.21	3.36
Intl Growth	129.60	137.30	+ 3.30	.
Managed	109.90	116.40	+ 4.20	0.17
UK Growth	87.31	93.37†	+ 2.72	1.20
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 33 33 53				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	53.09	53.36†	+ 0.63	1.28
Global Advtg Acc	58.38	58.66	+ 0.70	1.28
Income Advtg Inc	42.87	43.08†	+ 1.42	3.89
Income Advtg Acc	51.88	52.14	+ 1.72	3.89
UK Equity Gth Acc	118.80	126.00	+ 1.40	1.68
Premier Inc Inc	52.51	53.57†	+ 0.97	6.54
Premier Inc Acc	59.55	60.75	+ 1.09	6.54
Managed Acc	72.95	77.33	+ 0.58	1.79
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc	50.35	53.38	+ 1.53	3.91
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc	68.23	72.33	+ 2.07	3.91
UK Smlr Cos Acc	51.36	54.45	+ 0.30	0.83
Standard Life Tst Mngmt Ltd				
UK Equity Gen Acc	98.25	104.40	+ 3.30	1.54
UK Equity Gen Inc	69.78	74.12	+ 2.31	1.54
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	34.26	36.23	+ 0.64	6.16
Oseas Lrg Co Acc	408.20	443.00	+ 0.60	1.70
Nth American Acc	76.75	81.03	+ 1.03	0.01
Pacific Basin	41.18	43.78	- 1.38	0.62
European Acc	71.58	76.07	+ 2.59	0.22
Japan Acc	23.60	25.08	- 0.65	1.06
STATE STREET UT MGMT LTD				
0171 344 7000				
Global A (NZ$)	5.338	5.670	- 0.05	1.60
US Eqts (US$)	4.603	4.875†	+ 0.06	0.62
Far East Eqts (yen)	253.30	269.00†	- 12.30	
FT Europe	193.20	205.20	+ 3.40	0.99
FT N Amer (US$)	3.782	3.979†	+ 0.05	
FT Japan (yen)	157.30	166.10†	- 11.70	
FT Asia Exjap (US$)	2.695	2.862	- 0.05	0.97
STEWART IVORY UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 226 3271				
American	646.80	683.60	+ 16.00	.
British #	1492.80	1579.40	+ 43.60	2.71
Emerging Mkts	197.90	210.10	+ 0.90	0.44
Euro Gwth Inc	116.00	123.00	+ 5.20	
Euro Small Co	66.49	70.81	+ 1.15	0.18
Japan	109.20	115.80	- 0.20	
Asia Pacific	450.50	479.80	- 0.50	1.12
-do- Accum	490.10	522.00	- 0.60	1.12
Inv Trust Acc	333.70	353.80	+ 5.30	1.01
Mngd Equity	233.10	246.60	+ 5.30	2.34
Mngd Cash	96.39	96.39	+ 0.09	6.44
SUN ALLIANCE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 690 389				
Equity	1324.00	1415.00	+ 49.00	1.55
North America	252.60	270.10	+ 10.00	
Far East	158.10	169.00	- 2.30	
Wwide Bond	57.42	60.92	+ 0.55	4.14
European	186.90	199.80	+ 7.80	0.16
Equity Income #	135.60	145.00	+ 4.80	4.10
Portfolio	134.70	144.00	+ 3.40	1.04
UK Leading Cos	102.40	109.20	+ 4.40	1.94
High Inc Bond	51.39	51.47†	+ 0.42	6.09
Broker Trusts				
Intnl Equity	86.04	92.02	+ 0.92	.
SUN LIFE OF CANADA UT MGRS LTD				
0800 525 725				
Antares UT	22.32	23.75	- 0.60	7.06
Corp Bd Gilt Inc	102.32	108.86†	+ 2.19	6.76
Corp Bd & Gilt Acc	113.21	120.44	+ 2.42	6.76
European	66.36	70.60	+ 2.44	0.47
High Income	42.36	45.07	+ 1.42	3.26
Japan	32.11	34.16	- 0.10	0.01
Managed Assets	169.70	181.50	+ 5.18	2.16
North American	61.87	65.82	+ 1.35	0.01
Smlr Co's Inc	38.90	41.39	+ 0.12	2.01
Smlr Co's Acc	43.10	45.86	+ 0.14	2.01
UK Growth Inc	79.49	84.57	+ 3.08	1.83
UK Growth Acc	91.88	97.75	+ 3.56	1.83
Extra Income #	54.86	58.68	+ 1.53	4.06
Worldwide Gth	49.78	53.25	+ 1.27	0.21
SUN LIFE TRUST MGMT LTD				
Admin & Enq: 0171 606 4044 Dlg: 0171 606 6010				
Discretionary	63.79	67.86	+ 0.63	.
UK Income Inc	75.31	80.12	+ 2.52	2.66
Mngd Extra Inc Inc #	38.89	41.12	+ 0.79	6.54
Mngd High Yld Inc	108.09	114.99†	+ 3.40	3.76
Mngd Inc/Gth Inc	104.47	111.14	+ 3.01	2.46
UK Smaller Cos	43.44	46.21	+ 0.25	2.04
Pacific Grth Port	48.60	51.70	- 1.04	0.64
TSB UNIT TRUSTS				
01264 346 794				
American	393.31	416.20†	+ 12.94	
-do- Accum	433.21	458.42†	+ 14.25	
Brit Growth	149.17	157.86†	+ 5.07	1.41
-do- Accum	189.36	200.39†	+ 7.89	1.41
European	160.81	170.17†	+ 5.97	0.02
-do- Accum	171.80	181.80†	+ 6.37	0.02
Extra Income #	253.55	268.31†	+ 10.95	4.06
-do- Accum #	487.29	515.65†	+ 21.05	4.06
Smaller Cos	95.65	101.22†	+ 0.61	0.94
-do- Accum	110.51	116.94†	+ 0.70	0.94
General	432.02	457.17	+ 16.42	1.63
-do- Accum	939.54	994.22	+ 35.70	1.63
Premier Income	54.60	56.88	+ 1.09	6.06
-do- Accum	143.60	149.59	+ 2.86	6.06
Income #	467.64	494.86	+ 18.53	3.20
-do- Accum #	1117.45	1182.49	+ 44.27	3.20
Pacific	355.98	376.70	- 8.43	0.23
-do- Accum	374.05	395.82	- 8.85	0.23
International	741.33	784.48	+ 23.04	0.11
-do- Accum	979.62	1036.63	+ 30.44	0.11
Nat Resources	157.64	166.82	- 2.22	0.07
Special Opps	154.95	163.96†	+ 5.09	0.95
-do- Accum	207.07	219.12†	+ 6.82	0.95
Environmental Inv	99.87	105.68†	+ 2.50	0.76
Selector	88.43	93.58	+ 2.82	1.32
-do- Accum	103.88	109.92	+ 3.30	1.32
High Income #	83.49	88.34	+ 2.98	4.01
-do- Accum #	118.26	125.15	+ 4.24	4.01
Intl Income	64.40	68.15†	- 0.38	4.38
-do- Accum	89.36	94.56†	+ 1.44	4.38
Selector Income	77.74	82.27	+ 2.48	3.86
-do- Accum	100.56	106.41	+ 3.19	3.86
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED				
0181 867 1018				
British	498.27	524.49†	+ 20.15	1.93
European	99.76	104.05	+ 3.21	0.95
TEMPLETON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 469 4000				
Glob Growth Inc	286.04	302.69	+ 4.80	2.45
Glob Growth Acc	334.84	354.32	+ 5.61	2.45
Glob Balncd Inc	233.10	246.67	+ 4.31	3.32
Glob Balncd Acc	287.53	304.27	+ 5.32	3.32
Value Tst Inc	177.85	187.99	+ 3.96	2.17
Value Tst Acc	200.92	212.61	+ 4.48	2.17
THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 800 0033				
Capital	109.10	116.10	+ 4.40	0.46
International	83.59	88.93	+ 0.88	.
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0171 246 3000 Dealing: 0171 246 3001				
Dresdner Eur Bd	39.49	41.05†	+ 0.20	6.40
European Growth	427.19	447.31	+ 19.61	0.80
Exempt	808.05	843.22	+ 26.67	2.70
Global Em Mkts	95.45	99.94	- 0.62	0.50
Japan Tst	76.38	79.97	+ 0.83	
Little Dragons	127.02	133.00	- 4.86	
Nth Amer Gwth	393.44	411.97	+ 11.55	0.40
Oriental Income #	51.17	53.58†	1.13	3.50
Preference	146.86	153.77	+ 4.66	7.70
Tiger	277.34	290.40	- 7.50	
UK Blue Chip	100.35	105.07	+ 4.50	1.40
UK Growth	805.49	843.44	+ 30.10	0.80
UK High Yield #	139.27	145.83	+ 4.66	4.70
UK Mid-Cap	368.62	385.98	+ 4.97	1.60
UK Smllr Cos	141.51	148.17	+ 1.19	0.70
UK Smlr Cos Dvr #	89.87	94.10	+ 1.31	5.80
THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS				
Client Serv 0800 0683000 Inter Serv 0800 0684000				
Conversion Helpline: 0500 388227 (Unit and Oeic)				
Threadneedle Investment Services				
Managed Income	49.98	51.28	+ 1.28	3.57
Caus Mg Gth Acc	49.09	51.40	+ 1.40	4.03
Bal Mgd Gth Acc	48.80	51.09	+ 1.09	2.57
Adv Mgd Gth Acc	48.86	51.16	+ 1.16	0.87
Threadneedle Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Retail Shares (Class 1)				
UK				
UK Corp Bond ‡	51.18		+ 0.93	6.94
UK Equity Inc #	51.28		+ 1.55	3.41
UK Growth ‡	50.58		+ 1.77	1.29
UK Select Gwth ‡	51.09		+ 1.56	1.34
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	51.05		+ 0.48	1.17
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	50.23		+ 1.75	0.10
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	51.35		+ 1.56	..
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	44.02		- 0.98	
Japan Growth Acc ‡	43.69		- 0.90	.
Specialist				
Am Sel Gwth Acc ‡	51.21		+ 1.85	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	46.40		- 1.30	0.19
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	50.49		+ 1.27	
Glb Sel Gth Acc ‡	49.17		+ 1.20	0.11
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (£500,000 min)				
UK				
UK Equity Inc #	51.52		+ 1.71	4.01
UK Growth ‡	50.80		+ 1.85	1.84
UK Incl Gth Acc ‡	50.79		+ 1.71	1.62
UK Oseas Emgs ‡	50.32		+ 1.75	0.96
UK Select Gwth ‡	51.20		+ 1.60	1.89
UK Sm Cos Gwth ‡	51.05		+ 0.47	1.71
International				
Amer Gwth Acc ‡	50.45		+ 1.90	0.00
Euro Gwth Acc ‡	51.46		+ 1.61	
FE & Jap Gth Acc ‡	44.21		- 0.93	.
Japan Growth Acc ‡	43.89		- 0.83	
Specialist				
Amer Sel Gwth ‡	51.46		+ 1.93	
Asia Growth Acc ‡	46.76		- 1.03	0.69
Euro Sel Gth Acc ‡	50.84		+ 1.45	..
Threadneedle PEP Svc (Frmly Allied Dunbar)				
Proposed for conversion in Oct				
American Income	84.74	90.190	+ 2.48	1.80
Balanced	1008	1077.00†	+ 37.00	2.26
Conv & Gilt	56.18	60.050	+ 0.65	3.53
Equity Income	321.60	343.70	+ 11.70	3.23
Govt Secs	37.26	39.340	+ 0.68	5.20
Growth & Income	347.40	371.30	+ 12.90	2.71
High Income	563.80	602.70†	+ 21.70	3.54
High Yield	345.80	370.60	+ 13.20	3.41
UNITED FRIENDLY UT TST MGMT LTD				
01277 690 336				
UK Eq Inc Acc #	404.55	430.37	+ 14.25	3.95
UK Equity Gwth	440.07	468.16†	+ 15.81	1.73
European	230.19	244.88†	+ 17.24	0.48
Nth American	114.67	121.99	+ 3.91	0.09
Far Eastern	75.67	80.50	- 1.55	0.71
Money	74.60	74.60	+ 0.07	4.65
Fixed Interest #	87.68	93.04	+ 1.49	7.36
Index Linked Gilt	78.14	82.88	+ 1.46	1.16
VIRGIN DIRECT PFS LTD				
0345 959595				
Income Trust	111.09	111.09	+ 1.38	6.40
Pens Growth	123.43	123.43	+ 3.86	
Pens Inc Protect	109.75	109.75	+ 1.38	
UK Index Tracking @	157.96	157.96†	+ 2.48	2.30
WAVERLEY UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7455				
Australasian Gold	18.75	19.71†	- 1.06	.
Pacific Basin	33.39	35.15	- 0.97	
Global Bond (US$)	0.9248	0.9633†	+ 0.01	
Penny Share	46.81	49.27	- 0.10	
Japan Smlr Cos	32.27	33.97	- 0.80	.
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Short Dtd Gilt	129.30	130.70	+ 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.8083	0.8169	+ 0.00	
Gilt Income	52.01	52.82†	- 0.33	6.30
Gilt Growth	84.77	85.62	+ 1.21	.
Sterling Bons	50.90	51.71†	+ 0.70	6.60
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	66.51	70.61	+ 1.80	1.60
UK Stockmarket	124.80	132.50	+ 3.40	1.80
Corporate Bd Inc	50.00	50.14	+ 0.43	6.21
Do Accum	54.31	54.43	+ 0.47	6.21

Source: FT Information

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return). † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. .. No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital. @ Exit Charge

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Equities close at low of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
491½	407½	Allied Domecq	478½	- 10½	5.7	14.4
625	395	Bulmer (HP)	407½		4.5	11.4
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	46½		9.1	11.6
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	975		1.7	24.1
631	425½	Grand Metry	595½	+ 2½	3.2	19.1
627	424	Guinness	576	- 2½	3.5	16.4
380	292½	Highland Dist	322½	- 3	3.6	13.7
336	213	Matthew Clark	237½	+ 5	12.6	7.1
109½	52½	Merydown Wi	60½		6.4	14.9
2009½	1462½	SA Breweries	1762½	- 3½	2.2	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1278½	- 18½	2.6	17.7
971	710	Abbey Natl	895½	- 11	3.9	14.7
668½	532½	Alliance & Leict	666		3.1	15.6
563	388½	Allied Irish	519		3.5	14.7
497½	362½	Aus New Z	497½	+ 19	3.8	..
4706½	2875	Bank America	4803½	- 103½		
458	291½	Bank Scotland	452	- 3	2.3	13.7
1523	978½	Barclays†	1515	- 3½	2.8	14.4
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	724		2.7	16.0
8628½	6006½	Citicorp	8328½	- 84½		
1758½	1268½	Commerzbk	1700	+ 6½	2.3	
862½	559½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	659½	- 16½	0.7	
4321½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3868½	+ 31½	1.6	
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1275	+ 8½	2.9	
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	685	- 4½	0.6	
2369½	1272½	HSBC†	1948½	- 12½	3.0	15.8
2258½	1241	HSBC Hk†	1870½	- 7	3.1	15.2
783	696½	Halifax	734½	- 4	2.6	24.4
610	483½	Irish Perm†	565	- 5	2.7	15.6
789	424	Lloyds TSB†	764	- 21	2.3	22.3
980½	689½	Nat Aust Bk	980½	+ 51½	4.1	13.7
896½	663½	Nat Westm†	873½	- 12½	4.3	13.8
665	508	Ryl Bk Scot	632½	+ 10	3.8	13.6
1093½	681	Stand Chart†	832½	- 26	2.3	14.5
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		2.0	
397½	315½	Westpac	396½	+ 13	3.8	
373½	284	Woolwich†	323	- 4½	3.1	19.1

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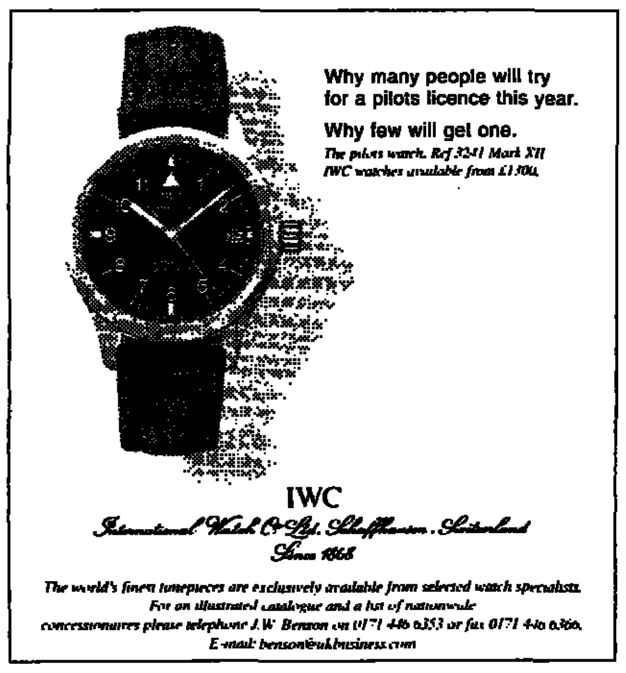
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THE TIMES Portfolio

£2,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add them up to find your total which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Eurocamp	Leisure	
2	Inspec	Chemicals	
3	Peptide Thera	Pharm'cals	
4	WMC	Mining	
5	BSM	Sup Serv	
6	Thorn	Ret Gen	
7	Oxford Inst	Electronic	
8	Land Sec	Property	
9	Ferraris Grp	Healthcare	
10	Cussins	Bld & Cons	
11	Hanson	Bld Mats	
12	Bilton	Property	
13	Renold	Engin'ing	
14	Matthew Clk	Alc Bev	
15	Bridport-Gdy	Textiles	
16	Hampas	Textiles	
17	Croda	Chemicals	
18	Warner	Property	
19	Scottish Pwr	Elect'y	
20	Sainsbury J	Ret Food	
21	Vosper Thrny	Engin'ing	
22	Groupe Chez	Breweries	
23	TDG	Transport	
24	Securicor	Telecomms	
25	Svrfld-Rve	Engin'ing	
26	Charles Tay	Oth Fin	
27	Care UK	Healthcare	
28	Morland	Breweries	
29	Brit Alloft	Media	
30	Logica	Sup Serv	
31	Utd Biscts	Food Man	
32	Torex	Sup Serv	
33	All Nippon	Transport	
34	Amey	Bld & Cons	
35	Mayflower	Eng, Veh	
36	Regent	Breweries	
37	Euro Tele	Telecomms	
38	Low & Bonar	Print Pap	
39	Imperial Tob	Div Inds	
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between 9.30am-3pm

Seven winners shared the prize yesterday, each receiving £286. They were: A McColl, Chiswick; C Prickett, Salisbury; P Stillwell, Aldershot; M Sperry, Twyford; A Allen, Hook; A Hodgson, Crowthorne; J Allan, Ashford.

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	55½	Jerome (S)	56½		6.6	10.8
380	293	Jones Stroud†	306		4.5	14.5
156½	110	Lambert†	143½		7.0	9.6
195	120	Lamont	131½		12.2	14.8
173	106½	Leeds	106½	- 4	8.0	8.0
38½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp†	22		12.8	16.8
62	47	Lyles (S)	48		2.0	
16½	7½	Marlangl	16½		1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	4½			6.6
207½	165½	Parkland†	184½		4.5	8.0
116	88	Pentland	101½		4.5	15.0
103	78½	Pittards	83½	- 1	5.3	5.6
46½	35	Readicut	37½	- ½	8.6	12.2

TRANSPORT

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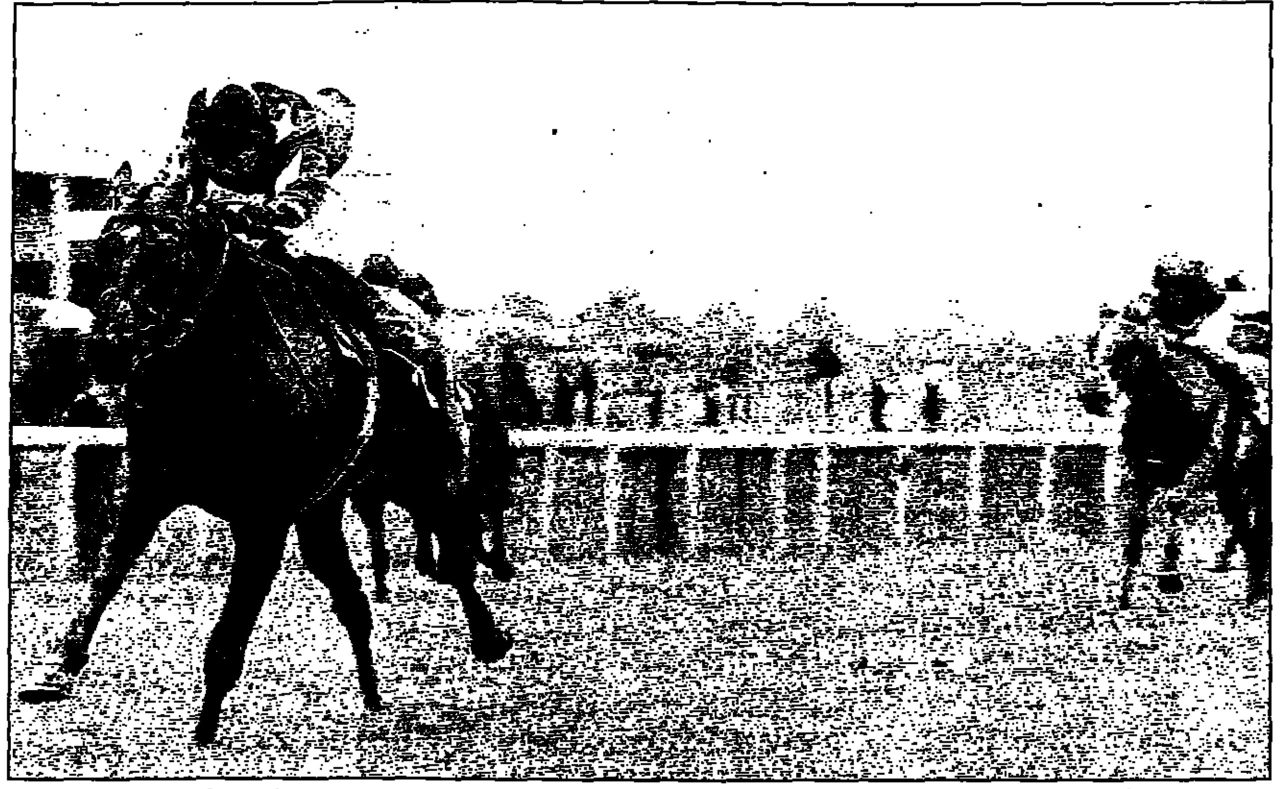
Source: FT Information

Price at suspension † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited; .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

RACING: HIGH DRAW TO FAVOUR MAKIN'S CONTENDER IN COMPETITIVE AYR SPRINT

Oggi can show rivals way home

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT


ED BYRNE

Double Action, who won recently at York, is among the favourites for today's Ladbroke Ayr Gold Cup

THROW away the form book and let the draw be your guide to finding the winner of the Ladbroke Ayr Gold Cup, the £75,000 highlight of the Western meeting this afternoon.

A quick glance at the outcome of the cavalry charge in recent years shows that Ayr's innocuous-looking straight course offers a huge advantage to those horses drawn high near the stands' rail. When Coastal Bluff came out of stall 28 a year ago and made virtually all the running to win, he was followed home by horses from stalls 29, 27 and 25.

Twelve months earlier, the first four were housed in stalls 27, 20, 28 and 26, while in 1994 and 1992 the winners came out of 29 and 28 respectively. With a breeze and warm sunshine continuing to dry out the racecourse yesterday, good ground looks assured today, which should reinforce the trend.

Walking the course before racing yesterday, there appeared to be a faster strip just off the stands' rail — and the draw for the day's feature race looks as though much of the early pace will be down the favoured side. Jack Berry, whose sprinters invariably race prominently, has three runners in the upper half of the draw, including the fast-breaking My Melody Parkes in stall 29.

With plenty of early speed, the race could play into the hands of **Oggi**, drawn next to My Melody Parkes. The Peter Makin-trained six-year-old loves genuinely good ground and has been a model of consistency since being gelded and having a soft palate operation last year. He has won four races inside the past 12 months — all in big fields — but arguably recorded his best effort when third to Rififi at Goodwood four weeks ago. That performance was particularly praiseworthy as Oggi came clear of those racing with him on the unfavoured stands' side.

Before the draw was announced, Sharp Hat had been my strong fancy. The improving three-year-old bounced back to his best when chasing home Dashing Blue in the Portland Handicap at Doncaster and Richard Hannon's runner will love this ground. However, he is drawn in No Man's Land, towards the middle of the track, and it would be no surprise if Bold Effort, fourth in the Doncaster sprint, reverses the form from his high draw.

Should the draw bias favour low horses — as it did consistently in the late 1980s — Gaelic Storm would hold sound claims, having won at Epsom 28 days ago when racing down the slowest part of the track in the centre. The step up to six furlongs should suit. Double Action, whose dam, Final Shot, won this race in 1990, also enters calculations after his runaway victory in the mud at York last time.

Of the rest, Emerging Market, winner of the Wokingham Handicap in 1996, is back on a fair handicap mark and will relish threading his way through this big field, while Passion For Life is well treated judged on his form early last year — and is racing over his best trip.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: SHARP CONSUL
(3.00 Newbury)
Next best: Ghataas
(3.35 Ayr)

Arkadian Hero poised to complete treble

NEWBURY
BBC1

2.00: Bin Rosie is not the most straightforward ride, but has at least been in better recent form than his rivals. He won an even worse race at Chepstow last time, but previously looked as good as ever when second to Decorated Hero here. Musical Pursuit showed no sign of retrieving his smart juvenile form (Dewhurst second) on his return from a break last time. Fatefully would also have every chance if at her best, but has never run on easy ground.

2.30: Banningham Blade deserves a medal, but **Arkadian Hero** looks impregnable on the book, having routed his field at Ripon last time — an effort since complimented by subsequent wins for Land Of Dreams (albeit over five furlongs) and Mijana (who reopposes on 3lb better terms for four lengths). The ground was much faster that day, but this sturdily-built colt has a rounded action, and should be suited by some cut. If he is too short, punters can consider Jimmy Too, improved on the soft at Chester last time.

3.00: Grief merits close attention in a tight handicap. Denied only in a photo-finish after storming up the Sandown hill last time, he handles the mud. Hajr is also progressing, but unproven on the ground. Lomberto is well treated on his best, while last year's winner, Game Ploy, is certainly game. But perhaps the value is **Ball Gown**. Second in this two years ago, she loves soft ground and is only 3lb higher than when romping home at Newmarket last year.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

3.30: Darapour will improve further for the additional test here, having finished clear of the fourth when staying on pluckily behind Honourable at the Ebor meeting. That was in soft ground, whereas Beauchamp Jade (tracks too sharp last twice) has raced principally on top. Debutante Days has gone up a stone in running up a sequence in modest races, while Russian Rose and Jazz King prefer faster going.

CHRIS McGRATH

AYR
CHANNEL 4

3.05: If my theory about the benefit of a high draw prevails, **Perryston View** must hold strong claims from stall 28. On his seasonal reappearance he won a competitive sprint at Newmarket and led home several subsequent winners. After two disappointing efforts, Peter Calver's runner did well from a poor draw at York last time. Significantly, a visor is fitted today. Almasi goes well for Jo Hunnam. Of those drawn low, Benzoe has the best claims.

3.35: River Usk finished five lengths adrift of Sandmoor Chambray on his belated seasonal reappearance at Epsom and should finish closer this time. If the ground had remained soft, Winter Romance would hold the call. The Cadeaux Genereux colt needs the mud to be seen to best effect, as he showed when beating Weet-A-Minute at York. However, I just prefer **Ghataas**, who recorded a career-best effort when finishing fourth to Annus Mirabilis in a group three race at Windsor last time. Sacho overcame a 16-month absence to win a Leicester maiden 11 days ago and is open to improvement.

4.15: see left

4.45: Kennemara Star needs to win here to ensure getting into the Cambridgeshire and John Dunlop's decent miler will appreciate the conditions underfoot. The progressive three-year-old defied top weight in an all-aged handicap last time. Safio has won four races inside the the past eight weeks and still looks reasonably treated, but is not sure to stay today's extra furlong. **Test The Water**, winner of an Ascot nursery last term, has taken time to find his form this season but ran well behind Shawm at Sandown recently.

RICHARD EVANS

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

2.00 Peartree House
2.30 Bold Edge
3.00 Edan Heights
3.30 Jazz King
4.00 **IVORY'S JOY** (nap)
4.30 Present Situation
5.00 Robin Goodfellow

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

GOING: SOFT
DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
SIS

2.00 AMERADA CONDITIONS STAKES BBC1
(£4,651: 1m 7yd rnd) (5 runners)

101	(5)	-306521	BIN ROSIE 28 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (W Said) D Loder 5-9-4	K Fallon	108
102	(1)	/000-40	MERCI MONSIEUR 11 (S Emmet) J Old 4-9-0	R Ffrench (3)	-
103	(2)	2106503	PEARTREE HOUSE 28 (D,F,S) (Fayzad Ltd) W Muir 3-9-0	Martin Dwyer	105
104	(4)	512-000	MUSICAL PURSUIT 30 (F) (B Schmidt-Bodner) M Tompkins 3-8-10	T Quinn	-
105	(3)	13-2003	FATEFULLY 106 (D,F,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-9	M Hills	102

BETTING: 10-11 Bin Rosie, 2-1 Fatefully, 5-1 Musical Pursuit, 12-1 Peartree House, 100-1 Merci Monsieur

1996: PHANTOM QUEST 3-8-11 Pat Eddery (9-4 fav) H Cecil 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Bin Rosie beat Open Credit ¾l in 7f Chepstow stakes (good to soft) with Merci Monsieur (4lb better off) 18l last of four. Peartree House 19l 3rd to Cape Cross in 1m group II Goodwood stakes (good). Musical Pursuit 12l 7th to Hidden Meadow in 7f listed York stakes (good). Fatefully demoted to 4th after finishing ¾l 3rd to Samara in 1m½f listed Epsom stakes (good to firm), previously 18l 10th to Tamayaz in 1¼m Nad Al Sheba stakes (AW).

BIN ROSIE may successfully concede 9lb to Fatefully

2.30 BONUSPRINT MILL REEF STAKES BBC1
(Group II: 2-Y-O: £33,145: 6f 8yd) (8 runners)

201	(5)	511	ARKADIAN HERO 26 (D,F,G) (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) L Cumani 8-12	K Fallon	115
202	(6)	62521	BEMSHA SWING 28 (D,F) (M Pescod) R Hannon 8-12	S Sanders	107
203	(7)	1035	BOLD EDGE 51 (CD,S) (Lady Whent) R Hannon 8-12	W J O'Connor	105
204	(4)	31235	FLAMING EMBER 7 (F) (B Schmidt-Bodner) B Meehan 8-12	T Quinn	81
205	(8)	3131	JIMMY TOO 21 (D,S) (J Graham) B McMahon 8-12	A Clark	102
206	(1)	12131	MIJANA 10 (C,D,F,G) (Nabil Mourad) J Gosden 8-12	A McGlone	112
207	(3)	11530	POOL MUSIC 41 (F) (Mrs C Parker) R Hannon 8-12	M Hills	90
208	(2)	4634235	BANNINGHAM BLADE 7 (F,S) (Crown Select) K Ivory 8-7	Martin Dwyer	106

BETTING: 5-4 Arkadian Hero, 9-4 Mijana, 8-1 Bemsha Swing, 12-1 Bold Edge, Pool Music, 14-1 others.

1996: INDIAN ROCKET 8-12 R Hills (100-30) J Dunlop 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Arkadian Hero beat Land of Dreams 2½l in 6f listed Ripon (good) with Mijana (3lb better off) 4l 3rd. Bemsha Swing beat Ikhteyaar neck in 6f Newmarket maiden (good to firm). Bold Edge 7¾l 5th to Daggers Drawn in 6f group II stakes (good to firm). Jimmy Too beat Surveyor ¾l in 6f Chester stakes (soft). Banningham Blade 3¾l 5th to Land Of Dreams in Doncaster group II (firm).

ARKADIAN HERO should confirm Ripon running with Mijana

3.00 COURAGE HANDICAP BBC1
(£16,187: 1m 2f 6yd) (17 runners)

301	(13)	/22110-	MIGWAR 457 (D,F) (Umm Qarn Racing) L Cumani 4-9-11	W J O'Connor	-
302	(16)	4211130	CHAMPAGNE PRINCE 31 (D,F,G) (Magnum Force) P Harris 4-9-9	A Clark	99
303	(11)	5325324	GAME PLOY 31 (CD,F,G) (K Kynaston) D Haydn Jones 5-9-9	K Fallon	103
304	(12)	36-5012	GRIEF 21 (D,G) (Mike Balcomb) D Elsworth 4-9-6	R Ffrench (3)	109
305	(1)	16-3000	BALL GOWN 63 (D,F,G,S) (C Lines) D Thom 7-9-4	J Lowe	90
306	(6)	4554652	BALI PARADISE 36 (C,F,S) (Al Muallim Partnership) P Cole 3-9-1	M Tebbutt	99
307	(17)	05-1554	YAROB 15 (F) (Lucayan Stud) R Akehurst 4-9-0	D R McCabe	85
308	(2)	0626405	STAR MANAGER 41 (C,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 7-8-11	T Quinn	100
309	(15)	14012	HAJR 28 (BF,C,D,F,G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 3-8-8	M Hills	98
310	(10)	-012000	LOMBERTO 21 (D,F,S) (S Al Homeizi) V Soane 4-8-8	R Perham	98
311	(5)	6-22035	SHARP CONSUL 48 (D,S) (Mrs D Blackburn) H Candy 5-8-7	C Rutter	92
312	(4)	1-044	SOPHOMORE 100 (G) (K Abdulla) B Hills 3-8-7	M Henry (3)	88
313	(9)	00-6520	SILVER GROOM 28 (D,F,S) (Silver Darlings) R Akehurst 7-8-6	S Sanders	86
314	(8)	0/500/0	PALATIAL STYLE 10 (CD,F,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 10-8-4	T Sprake	-
315	(3)	d416321	ISITOFF 25 (D,F) (J Brown) S C Williams 4-8-3	A McGlone	97
316	(7)	-224314	TITTA RUFFO 22 (D,G) (M Lanfranchi) B Meehan 3-8-3	Martin Dwyer	81
317	(14)	0603510	EDAN HEIGHTS 7 (CD,F,S) (I Mountain) S Dow 5-8-2	P Doe (7)	106

BETTING: 6-1 Game Ploy, 7-1 Grief, 8-1 Yarob, Hajr, 10-1 Migwar, Champagne Prince, Bali Paradise, 12-1 others.

1996: GAME PLOY 4-8-5 R Cochrane (5-1) D Haydn Jones 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Grief neck 2nd to Cugina in 1¼m Sandown handicap (soft) with Edan Heights (2lb better off) 5½l 5th and Lomberto (7lb better off) 9¾l 7th. Bali Paradise neck 2nd to Song Of Freedom in 1¼m Newbury handicap (good to firm). Isitoff beat Sandmoor Chambray neck in 1¼m Ripon handicap (good to firm). Titta Ruffo 11l 4th to Yabint El Sultan in 1¼m Chester handicap.

GRIEF finished strongly at Sandown and can regain winning trail

TOMORROW'S OTHER MEETINGS: Kempton Park (Flat, 2.10 - 4.50), Haydock Park (Flat, 2.20 - 5.00), Market Rasen (National Hunt, 2.00 - 4.40).

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CATTERICK	103	203
CARLISLE	104	204
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IRISH	120	220
SUNDAY RACING		
HAYDOCK	101	201
KEMPTON	102	202
MKT RASEN	103	203

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Kempton Park (first race, 2.00), Leicester (2.20), Hereford (2.10).

TUESDAY: Nottingham (2.15), Plumpton (2.30), Stratford (2.25).

WEDNESDAY: Chester (2.20), Goodwood (2.00), Perth (2.10).

THURSDAY: Goodwood (2.00), Pontefract (2.40), Perth (2.15).

FRIDAY: Folkestone (2.10), Haydock Park (2.30), Redcar (2.20).

SATURDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.00), Catterick (2.10), Haydock Park (2.30), Market Rasen (2.35), Worcester (2.25).

SUNDAY: Ascot (BBC, 2.00), Brighton (2.30), Nottingham (3.00), Stratford (2.10).

Flat meetings in bold

3.30 TOTE BOOKMAKERS AUTUMN CUP BBC1
(Handicap: 1m 5f 61yd) (14 runners)

401	(8)	36-0355	BEAUCHAMP JADE 21 (F,G) (E Penser) H Candy 5-10-0	C Rutter	90
402	(3)	-251106	RAINWATCH 21 (C,G,S) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop 3-9-10	W J O'Connor	95
403	(7)	421/	DANESMAN 737 (G) (Four Willies Partnership) W Muir 4-9-9	M Richards	-
404	(14)	0035152	WAKEEL 41 (F,S) (Mrs J Churston) S Dow 5-9-5	T Quinn	95
405	(4)	1/0326-	EASY LISTENING 147J (BF,F) (D Flint) N Hawke 5-9-4	M Rimmer	-
406	(13)	0-01140	JAZZ KING 10 (CD,F,G) (Whitcombe) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-4	R Ffrench (3)	91
407	(9)	01033	DARAPOUR 16 (F) (H R H Aga Khan) L Cumani 3-8-11	K Fallon	89
408	(10)	00-0111	DEBUTANTE DAYS 31 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Brasher) A Stewart 5-8-11	S Sanders	109
409	(12)	0-42125	RUSSIAN ROSE 64 (BF,F) (Ash Partnership) J Toller 4-8-8	Martin Dwyer	90
410	(2)	1-12104	STEAMROLLER STANLY 8 (CD,F) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 4-8-8	M Hills	99
411	(1)	3140	LIFE OF RILEY 15 (F) (J Manley) G Lewis 3-8-7	A Clark	89
412	(6)	/006-05	FOUNDRY LANE 17 (D,F,S) (A Sharratt) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-5	N Day	92
413	(5)	2443122	SHALATEENO 15 (F,G) (G Palmer) B Millman 4-8-3	T Sprake	96
414	(11)	2221014	RANDOM KINDNESS 132 (BF) (949 Racing) R Ingram 4-8-3	A McGlone	87

BETTING: 9-2 Darapour, 6-1 Debutante Days, 7-1 Foundry Lane, 8-1 Rainwatch, Jazz King, Russian Rose, Steamroller Stanly, Shalateeno, 10-1 others.

1996: KUTTA 4-10-0 R Hills (9-1) R Armstrong
dd-ht with BALLYNAKELLY 4-8-8 S Sanders (13-8 fav) R Akehurst 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Beauchamp Jade 22l 5th to Further Flight in 1m 5f Chester handicap (soft) with Rainwatch (2lb worse off) 27l 6th. Danesman beat Bright Heritage ½l in 1m Yarmouth maiden (good). Wakeel ½l 2nd to Grief in 1½m Epsom handicap (good). Darapour 2l 3rd to Honourable in 1m 3f York handicap (soft). Debutante Days beat Elbaaha neck in 1m 3f Leicester handicap (good). Steamroller Stanly 3½l 4th to Dantesque in 1½m Doncaster handicap. Shalateeno 3½l 2nd to Dance So Suite in 1½m Epsom handicap (good) with Life Of Riley (4lb better off) 39l last.

DARAPOUR gets narrow vote over Debutante Days

4.00 SOUTH CROYDON CONSERVATIVE CLUB NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £4,900: 5f 34yd) (11 runners)

501	(8)	2144024	YORKIES BOY 21 (D,F) (Mrs M Beddis) B McMahon 9-9	S Sanders	90
502	(10)	311	MONTE LEMOS 37 (D,F,G) (S De Zoete) R Charlton 9-0	T Sprake	78
503	(7)	40314	EXBOURNE'S WISH 21 (G) (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-13	M Hills	108
504	(3)	410	CENTRE COURT 51 (D,G) (Mrs D Sieff) R Hannon 8-9	P Dobbs (7)	89
505	(5)	22424	THE BOY JOHN 26 (J B R Leisure Ltd) R Hannon 8-6	R Ffrench (3)	98
506	(1)	2135203	FAST TEMPO 22 (D,F) (W Elliott) B Palling 8-3	C Rutter	89
507	(2)	01422	SUPREME ANGEL 22 (CD,G) (Least Moved Ptns) M Muggeridge 8-2	M Henry (3)	78
508	(6)	0040	FACILE TIGRE 22 (Fairweather Partners) S Dow 8-0	P Doe (7)	87
509	(9)	1540340	EASTERN LYRIC 17 (D,F) (R Meredith) J Berry 8-0	N Adams	99
510	(11)	5450	EMPEROR NAHEEM 47 (Mrs E Meehan) B Meehan 7-13	D R McCabe	89
511	(4)	4612124	IVORY'S JOY 4 (D,G,S) (K Ivory) K Ivory 7-10	Martin Dwyer	90

BETTING: 11-4 Monte Lemos, 6-1 Exbourne's Wish, 7-1 Yorkies Boy, The Boy John, Supreme Angel, Ivory's Joy, 8-1 Centre Court, 10-1 others

1996: MELIKSAH 8-12 G Faulkner (11-2) M Bell 5 ran

4.30 ROTHMANS ROYALS SERIES SEMI-FINAL HANDICAP
(£18,075: 1m 7yd rnd) (20 runners)

601	(15)	0-40305	ALMOND ROCK 21 (CD,G,S) (C I T Racing Ltd) J Fanshawe 5-10-0	N Varley	98
602	(9)	3033113	APACHE STAR 21 (V,D,F,S) (A Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-9-11	M Hills	84
603	(2)	3400001	SAIFAN 42 (V,D,F,G) (Mrs L Brook) D Morris 8-9-5	N Day	85
604	(18)	2122241	THERHEA 17 (CD,G,S) (R Gudge) B Millman 4-9-0	A Whelan (3)	102
605	(14)	40-2510	FAMILY MAN 74 (BF,D,F) (Family Man Partnership) J Fanshawe 4-8-13	A Clark	80
606	(1)	6231530	SHARP SHUFFLE 21 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Prendergast) R Hannon 4-8-13	M Henry (3)	86
607	(10)	31353	MR SPONGE 21 (F) (P Mellon) I Balding 3-8-13	S Sanders	98
608	(7)	1001221	LA MODISTE 16 (D,F,S) (J Purcell) Gay Kelleway 4-8-13	K Fallon	91
609	(8)	042-103	PRINCE OF DENIAL 36 (G) (J Gutlan) D Arbuthnot 3-8-12	T Quinn	92
610	(16)	1050200	ARTFUL DANE 17 (V,CD,F) (S P Lansdown) M Heaton-Ellis 5-8-9	A Daly (5)	80
611	(12)	-062300	KOATHARY 8 (D,F,S) (E Gadsden) L Cottrell 6-8-8	D Griffiths (3)	84
612	(4)	0133000	BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 30 (D,F,G) (R Marlow) B Millman 8-8-4	T Sprake	86
613	(19)	0-13300	MO-ADDAB 34 (D,F,G,S) (S Hammond) A Stewart 7-8-3	A McGlone	90
614	(6)	1642100	BEN GUNN 34 (BF,D,F,G,S) (M White) P Walwyn 5-8-2	J Lowe	93
615	(3)	1101240	SWEET WILHELMINA 16 (D,G) (C van Hoorn) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-1	R Ffrench (3)	89
616	(17)	3340114	CITY GAMBLER 31 (D,F,G) (J Mayl) G Bravery 3-8-0	D R McCabe	96
617	(20)	0-10416	PRESENT SITUATION 8 (D,F,S) Lord Huntingdon 6-7-13	Aimee Cook (5)	97
619	(5)	2101002	MR PARADISE 4 (D,F,S) (G Archer) T Haughton 3-7-13	C Rutter	89
619	(11)	0000003	SERENDIPITY 16 (F) (R F Partnership) B Millman 4-7-10	Martin Dwyer	97
620	(13)	1500020	ZERMATT 9 (D,F,S) (Mrs M Pearson) M Usher 7-7-10	N Adams	94

Long handicap: Serendipity 7-9, Zermatt 7-5

BETTING: 6-1 Apache Star, 7-1 Therhea, 8-1 La Modiste, 10-1 Mr Sponge, 12-1 Saifan, Family Man, Prince of Denial, Ben Gunn, Sweet Wilhelmina, Present Situation, 14-1 others

1996: ARTFUL DANE 4-7-10 N Carlisle (33-1) M Heaton-Ellis 16 ran

5.00 E B F HARWELL MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,903: 6f 8yd) (20 runners)

1	(20)		AGANON (Kingsdown Racing) M Channon 9-0	R Perham	-
2	(8)		ASTROLOGER (C Edginton) W Muir 9-0	W J O'Connor	-
3	(16)		BROWNING (S Sharp) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	Aimee Cook (5)	-
4	(19)	0	CARVER DOONE 18 (F Croden) D Chappell 9-0	A McGlone	64
5	(14)	4	DEEP SPACE 56 (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	K Fallon	79
6	(3)		EPSOM CYCLONE (S Bel Obaida) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	-
7	(2)		LUCAYAN INDIAN (Lucayan Stud) D Loder 9-0	A Clark	-
8	(6)	0	MANTELLO 28 (Super Sprinters) D Chappell 9-0	N Adams	-
9	(15)	0	MUYASSIR 64 (H al-Maktoum) C Benstead 9-0	A Whelan (3)	-
10	(5)		ROBIN GOODFELLOW (M Gough) P Walwyn 9-0	T Sprake	-
11	(9)	63	TORRENT 16 (BF) (Highclere) P Cole 9-0	David O'Neill (7)	62
12	(17)	402	TUMBLWEED PROSPECT 30 (Tumbleweed Ptns) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	88
13	(11)	50	ZEPPO 89 (Phylum Syndicate) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	J Lowe	-
14	(1)		ATLANTA (Duke of Marlborough) J Dunlop 8-9	M Rimmer	-
15	(4)		BABY SPICE (W Ponsonby) M Channon 8-9	Candy Morris	-
16	(18)		LA GALLERIA (D Walker) J S Moore 8-9	M Henry (3)	-
17	(12)	00	MISS DILLETANTE 16 (T H-Martin) R Johnson Houghton 8-9	Martin Dwyer	-
18	(13)	0	POLY BLUE 16 (Sheet & Roll Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 8-9	R Ffrench (3)	-
19	(7)	0	ST LUCIA 10 (B Meehan) B Meehan 8-9	G Hannon (7)	-
20	(10)		WAFF'S FOLLY (P Walford) G Charles-Jones 8-9	C Rutter	-

BETTING: 9-4 Deep Space, 5-1 Lucayan Indian, 6-1 Epsom Cyclone, 7-1 Tumblweed Prospect, 10-1 Atlanta, 12-1 Robin Goodfellow, 14-1 Torrent, 16-1 others

1996: SPEEDBALL 9-0 Pat Eddery (11-10 fav) I Balding 24 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	37	144	25.7	D Griffiths	4	25	16.0
Miss G Kelleway	6	31	19.4	K Fallon	9	63	14.3
L Cumani	11	58	19.0	T Quinn	32	271	11.8
E Dunlop	4	23	17.4	M Hills	23	196	11.7
R Charlton	20	124	16.1	A Whelan	3	26	11.5
S Dow	6	43	14.0	Only qualifiers			

Salamandre challenge

THERE are three British-trained runners in the group one Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp tomorrow. Sylvain Guillot rides Clive Brittain's Prix Robert Papin winner Greenlander, with Gary Carter on George Margarson's Speedfit Too and Steven Drowne on the David Elsworth-trained Chips. The trio will be bidding to complete a British treble in the race, after the successes of Lord Of Men and Revoque.

Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien runs Harbour Master (Cash Asmussen) and Marigot Bay (Seamus Heffernan), while the French runners are the Prix Morny first and second, Charge D'Affaires and Xaar, and Robert Collet's Sainte Marine.

AYR

THUNDERER

1.55 Equity Princess
2.25 Jazz Track
3.05 Double Oscar
3.35 Weet-A-Minute
4.15 Wildwood Flower
4.45 Sue's Return
5.15 Cumbrian Cadet

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.15 **DOUBLE ACTION.**

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.55 EBF TULIP COMPUTERS MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £4,380: 1m) (12 runners)

1	(7)	05	ARCANE STAR 2 (B I G Partnership) A Jarvis 9-0	C Lowther (5)	69
2	(9)		CORNICHE (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-0	R Cochrane	-
3	(10)		GLORY OF LOVE (C Rowlands) J Hetherton 9-0	Dean Mckeown	-
4	(12)	00	MADMAN'S MIRAGE 25 (J Morrison & R Dalgleish) M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	58
5	(2)	0	NEBUCHADNEZZAR 78 (Miss G Joughin) J J O'Neill 9-0	K Darley	-
6	(3)	5	TORNADO PRINCE 30 (M Tabor & Mrs J Magnier) N Callaghan 9-0	Paul Eddery	67
7	(1)	00	TORSO 38 (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 9-0	J Fortune	-
8	(8)	632	EQUITY PRINCESS 17 (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston 8-9	D Holland	98
9	(6)	6	FEAR NOT 17 (Die-Hard Racing Club) M Bell 8-9	M Fenton	85
10	(4)		LADY RACHEL (S MacDonald) J Eyre 8-9	M Gallagher	-
11	(11)	0	PITCHMARK 103 (T Scothern) E Weymes 8-9	J Quinn	-
12	(5)	50	PLEASANT DREAMS 68 (J Blair) D Smith 8-9	J Carroll	86

BETTING: 2-1 Corniche, 5-2 Equity Princess, 7-1 Tornado Prince, 10-1 Madman's Mirage, Fear Not, 14-1 Torso, Lady Rachel, 20-1 others.

1996: DOUBLE FLIGHT 8-9 J Weaver (2-5 fav) M Johnston 4 ran

2.25 JOHNNIE WALKER WHISKY HANDICAP
(£5,833: 1m 5f 13yd) (15 runners)

1	(3)	6-21556	TOP CEES 31 (F,G,S) (R Sangster) Mrs J Ramsden 7-10-0	J Fortune	89
2	(13)	1303606	HOH EXPRESS 31 (G,S) (Platinum Racing Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-9	M Fenton	86
3	(1)	-302032	URGENT SWIFT 29 (F) (A Morton) A Jarvis 4-9-5	C Lowther (5)	92
4	(2)	0260104	AL'S ALIBI 21 (G,S) (Sussex Stud Ltd) W Muir 4-9-0	Dane O'Neill	84
5	(8)	1012300	MANFUL 71 (B,C,F,S) (C Barber-Lomax) Miss L Perratt 5-8-12	N Kennedy	86
6	(5)	0233	JAZZ TRACK 26 (BF) (Mrs J Magnier) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-9	R Havlin (3)	85
7	(7)	3231216	SHAFFISHAYES 30 (F,G,S) (P D-Brown) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-8	D McKeown	80
8	(10)	3201406	LEDGENDRY LINE 21 (CD,G) (Home & Away Ptns) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-8	A Culhane	67
9	(9)	01246	STAKIS CASINOS BOY 47 (F) (Stakis Casinos RC) M Johnston 3-8-6	J Weaver	71
10	(15)	2520130	NOUFARI 26 (CD,G) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 6-8-6	K Darley	92
11	(14)	0132040	MENTALASANYTHIN 2 (C,D,F,G,S) (H O'Donnell) D H-Jones 8-8-3	A Mackay	92
12	(11)	50-0131	GLOBE RUNNER 33 (F,S) (G & P Barker Ltd) J J O'Neill 4-7-12	J Quinn	89
13	(12)	-121126	THE BUTTERWICK KID 96 (G,S) (R Chambers) R Fahey 4-7-12	R Winston (7)	89
14	(4)	4102310	GOLD DESIRE 10 (C,F,G,S) (Northgate Lodge RC) M Brittain 7-7-11	D Mernagh (7)	98
15	(6)	0502500	LORD ADVOCATE 2 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J M-Murray) D Nolan 9-7-10	P Fessey (3)	74

BETTING: 9-2 Top Cees, 7-1 Urgent Swift, Jazz Track, 8-1 Hoh Express, Shaffishayes, 10-1 Al's Alibi, Ledgendry Line, Globe Runner, 12-1 others.

1996: DURHAM 5-8-3 S Whitworth (3-1 fav) H Howe 11 ran

3.05 LADBROKE AYR SILVER CUP C4
(Handicap: £12,428: 6f) (29 runners)

1	(24)	3521050	MR BERGERAC 9 (D,F,G,S) (P John) B Palling 6-9-10	R Hills	89
2	(15)	0311100	SO INTREPID 28 (D,F,G,S) (E Hayward) J Bradley 7-9-10	W Ryan	89
3	(27)	0200010	WESTCOURT MAGIC 10 (C,D,G) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 4-9-10 (5ex)	T Lucas	95
4	(3)	0500111	HARD TO FIGURE 44 (CD,F,G,S) (J Mursell) R Hodges 11-9-9	J Quinn	82
5	(9)	0062051	RUDI'S PET 21 (B,G,S) (Broadgate Ptnrs) R Hannon 3-9-8 (5ex)	C Lowther (5)	95
6	(20)	61-1006	CANOVAS HEART 35 (F,G,S) (M Osborne) Bob Jones 8-9-7	M Wigham	87
7	(11)	5352000	GADGE 22 (CD,F,G,S) (J Wilcox) A Bailey 6-9-7	D Wright	92
8	(22)	2112211	ALMASI 15 (D,F,G,S) (Equema Partnership) C Wall 5-9-7	Jo Hunnam (5)	92
9	(17)	-000050	SAMWAR 7 (D,G) (Maygain Ltd) M Channon 5-9-7	J Carroll	86
10	(18)	4651262	RETURN OF AMIN 17 (D,S) (Sheikh A Dahlan) J Bethell 3-9-6	P Fessey (3)	85
11	(2)	4101004	THE GAY FOX 17 (F,S) (G Whistler) B McMahon 3-9-6	J F Egan	83
12	(4)	1552005	KIRA 26 (D,F,G) (J Wilson) J Eyre 7-9-6	R Lappin	83
13	(28)	00-1000	PERRYSTON VIEW 32 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 5-9-6	K Darley	81
14	(5)	0602135	BENZOE 32 (CD,F,G,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 7-9-5	J Fortune	94
15	(1)	1340360	SOVIET LEADER 7 (D,S) (Matthews Racing) R Guest 3-9-5	D Holland	81
16	(12)	1453242	TILER 24 (BF,CD,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 5-9-5	J Weaver	94
17	(16)	0525600	DAAWE 8 (V,C,D,F,G) (Mrs A Mallinson) J Glover 6-9-3	Dane O'Neill	81
18	(21)	6105404	SILCA KEY SILCA 16 (CD,G) (T Corby) M Channon 3-9-3	A Mackay	96
19	(25)	-450044	IBLIS 29 (BF,D,F,S) (G Wragg) C Wragg 5-9-1	Paul Eddery	84
20	(26)	1100016	DOUBLE OSCAR 7 (B,CD,F,G) (Trifty Racing) D Nicholls 4-9-0	Alex Greaves	100
21	(8)	4121303	ALWAYS ALIGHT 19 (D,F,S) (M N-Crocker) K Burke 3-8-13	D Sweeney (3)	89
22	(23)	10006-0	SCHARNHORST 15 (D,F,S) (M Mackenzie) A Dickson 5-8-12	E Johnson	-
23	(7)	6011030	PURPLE FLING 8 (D,F,G,S) (Miss N Thesiger) D Chapman 6-8-12	A Culhane	99
24	(14)	6451063	MR TEIGH 9 (F) (Platinum Racing Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-12	M Fenton	89
25	(10)	0202030	KNOTTY HILL 16 (R Craggs) R Craggs 5-8-12	L Charnock	86
26	(13)	2356040	GREY KINGDOM 7 (D,F,G,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 6-8-12	D Mernagh (7)	91
27	(6)	6050330	MISTER JOLSON 28 (D,F,G,S) (B Fromme) R Hodges 8-8-11	R Cochrane	81
28	(19)	6113136	CROSS THE BORDER 4 (F,G) (P Savill) D Nicholls 4-8-11	P Roberts (5)	95
29	(29)	0033000	NIGHT FLIGHT 1 (D,G) (C Stevens) J J O'Neill 3-8-11	R Winston (7)	79

BETTING: 7-1 Almasi, 8-1 Mr Bergerac, Return Of Amin, Double Oscar, 10-1 Westcourt Magic, 14-1 Hard To Figure, Canovas Heart, Tiler, Iblis, Mr Teigh, Cross The Border, 16-1 others.

1996: CRETAN GIFT 5-8-12 T G McLaughlin (10-1) N Littmoden 28 ran

FORM FOCUS Westcourt Magic 6¾l 13th to Dashing Blue in 5½f Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Hard To Figure beat Mystical neck in 5½f Bath claimer (good). Rudi's Pet beat Patsy Grimes 1¾l in 5f Sandown handicap (soft) with Soviet Leader (3lb better off) 4¾l 6th. Canovas Heart 4½l 6th to Tadeo in 6f Ripon handicap (good to firm) with Mr Teigh (levels) 4¾l 7th, So Intrepid (levels) 5¾l 8th, Double Oscar (1lb better off) 8½l 12th and Gadge (2lb better off) 9½l 13th. Almasi beat Prends Ca neck in 6f Haydock limited stakes (good to soft) with Scharnhorst (6lb better off) 31l last. Return Of Amin 8l 2nd to Double Action in 6f York handicap (soft) with The Gay Fox (levels) 8½l 4th. Kira 3¾l 5th to Gaelic Storm in 5f Epsom handicap (good to soft). Benzoe 2½l 5th to Plaisir D'Amour in 6f York handicap (good) with Mr Teigh (1lb better off) 4½l 6th, Mr Bergerac (1lb better off) 6l 7th, Perryston View (2lb better off) 6½l 8th, Silca Key Silca (2lb better off) 10l 11th, The Gay Fox (2lb better off) 10l 12th, Purple Fling (levels) 13l 16th, Grey Kingdom (2lb better off) 14l 18th, Daawe (2lb better off) 15l 19th and Double Oscar (2lb better off) 18l 22nd. Tiler 1½l 2nd to Double Oscar (levels) in 5f Carlisle handicap (firm). Daawe 5¾l 8th to Just Bob in 5f Doncaster handicap (good) with Purple Fling (2lb better off) 6½l 11th. Silca Key Silca 4½l 4th to La Modiste in 7f Salisbury fillies handicap (good to soft). Iblis 2l 4th to Kind Of Light in 6f Newmarket apprentice handicap (good). Double Oscar 1½l 6th to Wildwood Flower in 6f Goodwood handicap (good to soft) with Soviet Leader (6lb worse off) 3½l 13th and Samwar (8lb worse off) 8¾l 27th. Always Alight 2¼l 3rd to March Crusader in 6f Hamilton handicap (good to soft). Mr Teigh ½l 3rd to Safio in 7f Doncaster handicap (good to firm) with Mr Bergerac (levels) 6½l 14th. Grey Kingdom 8½l 18th to Epic Stand in 1m Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Mister Jolson 9¼l 13th to Rififi in 6f Goodwood handicap (good) with Gadge (1lb better off) 11l 18th and So Intrepid (1lb worse off) 13l 19th. Cross The Border 4½l 6th to Spender in 5f Yarmouth handicap (good to firm). Night Flight 7l 9th to Samsung Spirit in handicap 6f Ripon (6f, good)

MR BERGERAC, runner-up in the Gold Cup here last year, can defy top weight

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Lady Herries	4	8	50.0	W Ryan	3	10	30.0
P Calver	6	15	40.0	R Cochrane	4	15	26.7
P Makin	3	8	37.5	D Holland	16	62	25.8
M Stoute	10	29	34.5	Paul Eddery	3	13	23.1
J Dunlop	8	30	26.7	K Darley	38	184	20.7
P Chapple-Hyam	9	37	24.3	J Weaver	28	153	18.3

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Ayr: 4.45 Regal Thunder. 4.15 King Of Peru, Zuhair, Albert The Bear, Madly Sharp. 5.15 Suivez La Trace. Carlisle: 1.45 Persuasive Talent. 2.15 Speaker's House. Catterick: 2.50 Iris May. 3.20 Kulepopsie. Wolverhampton: 7.00 Royal Shock. 7.30 Supercharmer. 8.30 Subtle Touch. 9.00 Rock From The Sun

3.35 FAUCETS FOR PEMBREY IN WALES DOONSIDE CUP C4
(Listed race: £11,225: 1m 2f 192yd) (8 runners)

1	(6)	5-44121	WINTER ROMANCE 16 (S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-9-1	J Fortune	110
2	(5)	04-0404	NIGHT CITY 1 (S) (N Shields) K Burke 6-8-11	D Holland	90
3	(8)	2/2-1	SACHO 11 (F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-8-11	G Hind	103
4	(1)	4611221	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 15 (F,G,S) (Sandmoor Co) T Easterby 6-8-11	J Weaver	112
5	(2)	2400-20	STAR SELECTION 21 (S) (R Mitchell) J Mackie 6-8-11	J Quinn	-
6	(3)	64-2442	WEET-A-MINUTE 16 (F,G) (E Weetman) R Hollinshead 4-8-11	K Darley	111
7	(7)	2-14144	GHATAAS 28 (D,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-4	R Hills	104
8	(4)	141-3	RIVER USK 15 (G,S) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 3-8-4	W Ryan	90

BETTING: 3-1 Winter Romance, 4-1 Sandmoor Chambray, 9-2 Weet-A-Minute, 5-1 Sacho, Ghataas, 6-1 others.

1996: KEY TO MY HEART 6-8-11 J Weaver (6-4 fav) Miss S Hall 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Winter Romance beat Weet-A-Minute (4lb better off) ½l in 1m1f York listed stakes (soft). Sacho beat Tonight's Prize 1¾l in 1¼m Leicester maiden (good to firm). Sandmoor Chambray beat Danish Rhapsody 2½l in 1¼m Epsom handicap (good) with River Usk (5lb better off) 5l 3rd. Ghataas 5¾l last of 4 to Annus Mirabilis in 1¼m Windsor group III stakes (good to firm).

SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY is going from strength to strength and can make all the running

4.15 LADBROKE AYR GOLD CUP C4
(Handicap: £49,973: 6f) (29 runners)

1	(20)	1106165	TEDBURROW 15 (C,D,F,S) (P Davies) E Alston 5-9-10	A Culhane	87
2	(12)	6015441	CRETAN GIFT 41 (B,CD,F,G,S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 6-9-8	J Weaver	89
3	(16)	-040510	PROUD NATIVE 29 (D,F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 3-9-8	C Lowther (5)	87
4	(10)	-050100	NIGRASINE 10 (V,D,F,G) (M Gleason) J Eyre 3-9-6	Dean McKeown	104
5	(17)	1304100	TADEO 10 (D,F,G,S) (J Good) M Johnston 4-9-6	Alex Greaves	107
6	(7)	12-202	AZIZZI 41 (F) (C Brasher) C Egerton 5-9-4	J Quinn	101
7	(1)	2155-10	SUPERIOR PREMIUM 140 (S) (J Parsons) R Fahey 3-9-4	J Carroll	90
8	(8)	0-36002	EMERGING MARKET 35 (D,F) (P Wroughton) J Dunlop 5-9-4	K Darley	101
9	(21)	2111330	BLESSINGINDISGUISE 10 (B,C,F,G) (A Black) M W Easterby 4-9-3	T Lucas	111
10	(19)	-223150	SELHURSTPARK FLYER 49 (D,F,S) (C Deuters) J Berry 6-9-3	P Roberts (5)	104
11	(24)	3030601	WILDWOOD FLOWER 7 (D,F,G,S) (G H-Spurll) R Hannon 4-9-3 (7ex)	Dane O'Neill	106
12	(11)	-600004	PASSION FOR LIFE 11 (D,F,G) (D Waters) G Lewis 4-9-2	Paul Eddery	87
13	(25)	0600300	ASTRAC 10 (D,F,S) (T Beecroft) N Tinkler 6-9-1	Kim Tinkler	90
14	(9)	2140001	DOUBLE ACTION 17 (D,F,G,S) (C Stevens) T Easterby 3-9-1 (7ex)	L Charnock	117
15	(27)	0205044	BOLD EFFORT 10 (B,D,F,S) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 5-9-0	R Havlin (3)	119
16	(14)	4004660	KING OF PERU 28 (B,CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M McClean) N Littmoden 4-9-0	T McLaughlin	114
17	(29)	-002241	MY MELODY PARKES 23 (G,S) (J Heler) J Berry 4-8-13 (3ex)	R Hills	107
18	(28)	1014453	OGGI 28 (D,F,G,S) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 6-8-11	R Cochrane	110
19	(6)	0562000	CHICKAWICKA 28 (D,G,S) (Merthyr Auctions) B Palling 6-8-11	D Sweeney (3)	91
20	(15)	0251	MIDYAN CALL 42 (D,F) (L Gaucci) M Bell 3-8-10	M Fenton	94
21	(3)	4663300	ZIGGY'S DANCER 11 (D,F,G) (J Barry) E Alston 6-8-10	J F Egan	90
22	(26)	4043121	PLAISIR D'AMOUR 32 (D,F,G,S) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 3-8-9	W Ryan	109
23	(2)	/021350	ELFLAND 9 (G,S) (High Flying Partnership) Lady Herries 6-8-9	G Milligan (5)	105
24	(4)	6530200	ZUHAIR 22 (B,D,F) (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 4-8-8	R Mullen (5)	96
25	(22)	5462000	ALBERT THE BEAR 7 (B,D,F,S) (C Deuters) J Berry 4-8-8	P Fessey (3)	107
26	(18)	6-00000	MADLY SHARP 32 (B,D,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Watts 6-8-8	J Fortune	80
27	(13)	4134062	SHARP HAT 10 (D,F,G,S) (J Smith) R Hannon 3-8-8	G Hind	113
28	(23)	0024022	PERSIAN FAYRE 42 (C,F,G) (M Grubb) J Berry 5-8-7	T E Durcan (3)	106
29	(5)	63-6011	GAELIC STORM 26 (F,S) (H C Racing Club) M Johnston 3-8-6 (7ex)	D Holland	107

BETTING: 7-1 Oggi, 8-1 Plaisir D'Amour, 10-1 Blessingindisguise, Wildwood Flower, Double Action, My Melody Parkes, 14-1 Tedburrow, Bold Effort, Sharp Hat, 16-1 others

1996: COASTAL BLUFF 4-9-10 J Fortune (3-1 fav) T Barron 28 ran

FORM FOCUS Tedburrow 5l 5th to Royal Applause in 6f Haydock group I stakes (good to soft). Cretan Gift beat Azizzi (5lb better off) 2l in 6f Leopardstown group III stakes (good). Emerging Market ¾l 2nd to Tadeo (2lb worse off) in 6f Ripon handicap (good to firm) with Double Action (3lb worse off) 6¾l 9th. Wildwood Flower beat No Extras sh hd in 6f Goodwood handicap (good to soft). Double Action beat Return Of Amin 8l in 6f York handicap (soft) with Elfland (7lb better off) 8¾l 5th. Wildwood Flower (levels) 23l 8th, Astrac (7lb better off) 23l 9th and Tadeo (7lb better off) 39l 13th. My Melody Parkes beat Cathedral ½l in 5f Lingfield stakes (good to soft). Oggi 1¾l 3rd to Rififi in 6f Goodwood handicap (good). Midyan Call beat Mary Cornwallis ¾l in 6f Newmarket maiden (good to firm). Plaisir D'Amour beat Tiler ½l in 6f York handicap (good) with Blessingindisguise (5lb better off) ½l 3rd, Madly Sharp (10lb better off) 8l 10th and Zuhair (9lb better off) 12l 15th. Elfland 1½l 7th to Safio in 7f Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Sharp Hat ½l 2nd to Dashing Blue in 5½f Doncaster handicap (good to firm) with Bold Effort (levels) 1¾l 4th, Tadeo (levels) 2¾l 7th, Nigrasine (levels) 3¼l 8th and Astrac (levels) 11l last. Persian Fayre 1¼l 2nd to Antarctic Storm in 1m handicap here (good). Gaelic Storm beat Tuscan Dawn ½l in 5f Epsom handicap (good to soft)

PLAISIR D'AMOUR, with the advantage of a high draw, can continue her progress

4.45 LADBROKES AYRSHIRE HANDICAP C4
(£20,470: 1m) (20 runners)

1	(14)	6-10021	KENNEMARA STAR 18 (D,S) (Windflower Holdings Inc) J Dunlop 3-9-11	K Darley	80
2	(11)	0066005	MOVING ARROW 7 (D,F,G,S) (G Westgarth) Miss S Hall 6-9-10	D Holland	81
3	(15)	2620240	TERTIUM 9 (D,F) (J Barton) M Wane 5-9-9	R Mullen (5)	83
4	(1)	041	SOLAR STORM 16 (D,S) (T Harris) M Bell 3-9-9	M Fenton	62
5	(9)	0526434	SUE'S RETURN 37 (D,F,S) (A Morton) A Jarvis 5-9-5	C Lowther (5)	85
6	(8)	5041111	SAFIO 9 (C,F,G) (Mrs M Claxton) A Bailey 4-9-5	D Wright	86
7	(4)	1/06305	MAGIC MILL 54 (F) (A Scott) J Eyre 4-9-5	M Gallagher	70
8	(20)	4100-60	MOSCOW MIST 21 (D,F) (Merthyr Auctions) B Palling 6-9-5	P Roberts (5)	71
9	(19)	1110002	PHILISTAR 42 (D,F,G) (N Shields) K Burke 4-9-4	D Sweeney (3)	70
10	(12)	4310200	PRIDE OF PENDLE 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) M Wane 8-9-4	J Weaver	80
11	(3)	31-6053	TEST THE WATER 22 (S) (J Threadwell) R Hannon 3-9-3	Dane O'Neill	72
12	(13)	1124060	BEST OF ALL 1 (B,D,F,G,S) (R Aird) J Berry 5-9-1	R Cochrane	71
13	(6)	0021036	SOMERTON BOY 25 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 7-8-11	J Carroll	70
14	(17)	0-00060	CELEBRATION CAKE 1 (CD,F,G) (Lightbody Ltd) Miss L Perratt 5-8-11	D McKeown	67
15	(10)	4226650	BOLLIN FRANK 7 (D,F,S) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 5-8-10	L Charnock	83
16	(16)	0006002	REBEL COUNTY 1 (V,C,D,F,G,S) (Chowtime Ice Cream) A Bailey 4-8-8	J Fortune	80
17	(7)	0035414	BEGORRAT 17 (B,D,G) (M Flynn) D Moffatt 3-8-8	Darren Moffatt (3)	82
18	(18)	6505445	ROYAL CEILIDH 34 (V,D,F,G) (J Blair) D Smith 4-8-8	P Fessey (3)	88
19	(2)	-030050	REGAL THUNDER 1 (V) (P Savill) M Stoute 3-8-7	J Quinn	70
20	(5)	4521305	RUNNING GREEN 19 (V,CD,G) (Die-Hard RC) D Moffatt 6-8-7	T Siddall (7)	73

BETTING: 9-2 Kennemara Star, 7-1 Safio, 8-1 Test The Water, 10-1 Philistar, 12-1 Moving Arrow, Sue's Return, Bollin Frank, 14-1 others.

1996: PRIDE OF PENDLE 7-8-5 Alex Greaves (6-1) D Nicholls 18 ran

FORM FOCUS Kennemara Star beat Legal Issue 1¼l in 1m Pontefract handicap (good to soft) with Regal Thunder (9lb better off) 6¾l 5th. Moving Arrow 2¼l 5th to Epic Stand in 1m Doncaster handicap (1m, good to firm) with Bollin Frank (1lb better off) 6½l 11th and Pride Of Pendle (1lb better off) 8¾l 17th. Solar Storm beat Brigand ¾l in 1m York maiden (soft). Safio beat Al Muallim ½l in 7f Doncaster handicap (good to firm) with Tertium (3lb better off) 1¾l 9th. Philistar 2½l 2nd to Neuwest in 7f Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Test The Water 1l 3rd to Shawm in 1m Sandown handicap (good to soft). Best Of All 3½l 6th to Sadan in 1m Redcar handicap (good to firm). Somerton Boy 5l 6th to Alpine Hideaway in 1m Ripon claimer (good to firm). Begorrat 6½l 4th to Therhea in 1m York handicap (soft) with Pride Of Pendle (levels) 21l 10th. Royal Ceilidh 3½l 5th to Apache Star in 1m Pontefract handicap (good to firm). Running Green 2¾l 5th to Antarctic Storm in 1m Hamilton handicap (good) with Rebel County (9lb better off) 15l 13th.

KENNEMARA STAR won in good style at Pontefract and can follow up

5.15 FORD SCOTTISH DEALER NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £4,666: 6f) (13 runners)

1	(11)	3120	HIJJOOM 28 (F) (Kuwait Racing Syndicate) J Dunlop 9-7	K Darley	100
2	(1)	155	SUIVEZ LA TRACE 21 (B,S) (C Bigley Ptnrs Ltd) J J O'Neill 9-6	C Lowther (5)	74
3	(10)	13064	VICE PRESIDENTIAL 8 (BF,S) (P Savill) T Etherington 9-6	A Culhane	75
4	(5)	3411	HUNTSWOOD 46 (F) (Mrs D Cock) R Hannon 9-5	Dane O'Neill	76
5	(13)	312	ANITA AT DAWN 21 (D,S) (Merthyr Motor Auctions) B Palling 9-3	D Holland	84
6	(9)	051230	PREMIUM PURSUIT 7 (D,G) (J Parsons) R Fahey 9-1	R Cochrane	78
7	(4)	123435	ANGEL HILL 7 (F) (D K D Partnership) T Barron 8-13	J Carroll	89
8	(2)	062001	FIVE OF SPADES 18 (D,S) (B Cassidy) R Fahey 8-11	R Winston (7)	82
9	(6)	5422621	CUMBRIAN CADET 25 (F) (Cumbrian Industrials Ltd) T Easterby 8-10	J Fortune	104
10	(3)	142024	LASHAM 23 (BF,F) (N Callaghan) N Callaghan 8-0		86
11	(8)	146	KATY THOMAS 84 (F) (N Warburton) J Berry 8-0	P Fessey (3)	75
12	(7)	425	BAYLHAM 19 (Mrs A Fiker) J Goldie 8-0	J Dunn	82
13	(12)	6636403	COSMIC CASE 31 (J Goldie) J Goldie 7-10	A Polli (5)	78

Long handicap: Cosmic Case 6-13

BETTING: 9-2 Vice Presidential, 11-2 Huntswood, 7-1 Anita At Dawn, 8-1 Hijjoom, Five Of Spades, 10-1 others.

1996: BLUES QUEEN 8-4 J Carroll (5-1) M Channon 11 ran

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O'Brien star left with simple task

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

KING OF KINGS, with the absence of Central Park, looks to have been left a relatively simple task to land tomorrow's Aga Khan Studs National Stakes at The Curragh.

Paul Cole yesterday withdrew his Champagne Stakes winner from the £200,000 group one contest after Central Park returned a unsatisfactory blood test. "He will probably be rerouted to the Dewhurst Stakes," Cole said.

The Whatcombe trainer will now be represented by his Kempton winner Mowbray but he should not have the firepower to cope with King Of Kings.

The Aidan O'Brien-trained horse will start at short odds to win his fourth race in five starts and will be joined by three other stablemates, including Saratoga Springs, who was third to Daggers Drawn at Doncaster last week. However, it will be a surprise if **King of Kings** does not take his first group one prize.

Four of the seven runners in today's final Irish classic of the season, the Jefferson Smurfit Irish St Leger, come from Britain and they are headed by the 1995 Doncaster Leger winner, Classic Cliche, who returned to form by winning the Prix Kergorlay at Deauville last time.

The Doncaster Cup runner-up, Persian Punch, John Dunlop's Samraan and Whitewater Affair, a good second behind My Emma in the Yorkshire Oaks, also go for Britain, but last year's winner, **Oscar Schindler**, can complete the double en route to the Arc.

CURRAGH FIELDS

Today 3.50 JEFFERSON SMURFIT MEMORIAL IRISH ST LEGER (Group I: £88,800: 1m 6f) (7 runners) C4

1 (7) 20-0221 CLASSIC CLICHE 27 (D,F,G,S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 5-9-8 L Dettori 134
2 (5) 130-253 OSCAR SCHINDLER 35 (CD,F,G,S) (O Lehane) K Prendergast 5-9-8 S Craine 127
3 (4) 0110552 PERSIAN PUNCH 9 (D,F,G,S) (J Smith) D Elsworth (GB) 4-9-8 G Duffield 125
4 (2) 64562d1 SAMRAAN 16 (BF,D,F,G,S) (K Al-Mudhaf) J Dunlop (GB) 4-9-8 P J Smullen 128
5 (6) 4-13312 WHITEWATER AFFAIR 31 (F,G,S) (J Greetham) M Stoute (GB) 4-9-5 J Reid 121
6 (1) 1-1 STAGE AFFAIR 35 (C,F,S) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld 3-8-12 M J Kinane 104
7 (3) 5-30351 FAMILY TRADITION 47 (B,D,G,S) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 3-8-9 C Roche 108

BETTING: 6-4 Classic Cliche, 9-4 Oscar Schindler, 8-1 Persian Punch, Whitewater Affair, Stage Affair, 10-1 Samraan, 14-1 Family Tradition.

1996: OSCAR SCHINDLER 4-9-8 S Craine (4-1) K Prendergast 9 ran

Tomorrow 4.15 AGA KHAN STUDS NATIONAL STAKES (Group I: 2-Y-O: £112,600: 1m) (10 runners) BBC2

1 (3) 15 CELTIC CAVALIER 23 (F) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 9-0 — 87
2 (9) GALAHAD (R Sangster) T Stack 9-0 P Shanahan -
3 (4) 1121 KING OF KINGS 36 (C,G,S) (Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien 9-0 C Roche 129
4 (10) 0161 MAGICAL MINTY 11 (D,S) (D Jefferson) W P Mullins 9-0 — 103
5 (6) 311 MOUNTAIN SONG 87 (G,S) (Eclipse Thoroughbreds) M Prescott (GB) 9-0 G Duffield 105
6 (8) 211 MOWBRAY 32 (F,G) (Sir George Meyrick) P Cole (GB) 9-0 T R Quinn 102
7 (7) 13 NATALIS 22 (C,S) (Lady Clague) J Oxx 9-0 J P Murtagh 98
8 (2) 31213 SARATOGA SPRINGS 9 (G) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien 9-0 — 123
9 (5) 1100 SIDEMAN 22 (C,S) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien 9-0 — 121
10 (1) 1 TAKARIAN 25 (D,S) (H H Aga Khan) J Oxx 9-0 P J Smullen 79+

BETTING: 8-11 King Of Kings, 5-1 Saratoga Springs, 6-1 Natalis, 7-1 Mowbray, 10-1 Mountain Song, 12-1 Takarian, 14-1 Magical Minty, 16-1 others.

1996: DESERT KING 9-0 W R Swinburn (11-1) A P O'Brien 10 ran

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Duck Row, right, makes a winning debut by gamely overhauling Quiet Assurance at Newbury yesterday

Duck Row quickly off the mark

By Chris McGrath

DUCK ROW may sound like an England Test match scorecard, but he got off the mark in confident style at Newbury yesterday, looking the sort of juvenile to figure prominently in the end-of-season averages.

Making his debut against some more experienced horses in the Haynes, Hanson and Clark Conditions Stakes, he took to racing like — well, a duck to water. There was plenty of that about, certainly, as the going worsened through the afternoon, sternly testing a young horse's mettle.

Previous winners of the race include *Shergar, Shahrastani and Rainbow* Quest, and Coral offered 25-1 against Duck Row lending it further lustre in the 2,000 Guineas; the Tote go 33-1, and likewise for the Derby. Those prices are *now likely to be held up to the light in* another stiff juvenile test, the Racing Post Trophy at Doncaster, but — whatever his fate there — he is another feather in the cap of James Toller, celebrating the thirteenth winner of a fine season.

Toller trains Duck Row for his principal patron, the Duke of Devonshire, whose colours have prospered this summer with the July Cup winner, Compton Place, and another promising two-year-old, Teapot Row. Like the latter colt, Duck Row is in fact named after a line of cottages on his Chatsworth estate. "There isn't a lot between them at home," Toller said. "Teapot Row probably has a better turn of foot, as this one is more of a galloping type."

That much became evident as Duck Row *kept on diligently after tackling the* Ed Dunlop-trained Quiet Assurance approaching the furlong pole, sustaining an advantage of a length and a half at the line. "This is unheard of," Toller *said. "I've now got two in the Derby* betting. We can but dream. I was a bit nervous when the rain came, fearing that it might be too much of a slog. It was already a bit of question to come here first time, but I wanted a nice galloping track and a small field that wouldn't have him squeezed and knocked about too much."

The Polygram Monster Sale Fillies' Stakes has a similar record for producing good animals, including Balanchine and Salsabil, but Ian Balding received a receptive audience when sceptical about the pretensions of Amabel. The filly, who made all and held off the promising Hollow Haze by a length and a half — despite a couple of indignant flashes of the tail — had been unplaced on both previous starts, but ran well on the wrong side of the course at Salisbury last time.

The season's leading jockey, Kieren Fallon, took his score to 150 with one winner, Clan Ben for Henry Cecil — but *his championship rival, Frankie Dettori,* on duty in Ireland today, responded with two, narrowing the gap to six.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.20 Three Tenners. 2.50 Title Bid. 3.20 Good Reputation. 3.50 Tessajoe. 4.25 Skelton Sovereign. 4.55 Present Chance. 5.30 Celandine.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 LEVY BOARD NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £3,564: 7f) (17 runners)

1 3614 INCHALONG 7 (D,G) M Brittain 9-7 G Bardwell 16
2 1130 TANCRED TIMES 10 (CD,G) D Barker 9-6 T Williams 7
3 5564 TOM DOUGAL 21 C Smith 9-6 J Tate 17
4 300 BAWSIAN 11 J Eyre 9-2 O Pears 8
5 4055 SHAMWARI SONG 41 J Glover 9-1 V Halliday 14
6 0310 THE HONORABLE LADY 50 (D,F) M Channon 9-0 P P Murphy (3) 1
7 0501 IMPULSE 29 (D,G) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0 D Biggs 9
8 5400 FLYING SINGER 18 I Balding 8-12 S Whitworth 11
9 040 CARRICK VIEW 21 P Calver 8-11 J Stack 4
10 5100 HEAVENLY FALLS 15 (F,G) C Dwyer 8-11 F Norton 12
11 4000 THE CANNIE ROVER 16 M W Easterby 8-11 G Parkin (3) 10
12 0530 PETARA 37 (V) J Wainwright 8-11 F Lynch 6
13 006 CASTLE FRIEND 33 P Haslam 8-9 Dale Gibson 5
14 6010 SEMI CIRCLE 45 (B,CD,G) T Easterby 8-9 L Newton 2
15 060 BUZZ THE AGENT 25 M W Easterby 8-9 S Finnamore (7) 15
16 400 SUPACALIFRAGILISTK 64 B Hills 8-9 D O'Donohoe (3) 13
17 4040 THREE TENNERS 7 (B,S) J Berry 8-8 J Fanning 3

6-1 Supacalifragilistk, 7-1 Impulse, 8-1 Inchalong, Flying Singer, Three Tenners, 10-1 Shamwari Song, Semi Circle, 12-1 others.

2.50 E B F MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,542: 5f 212yd) (10)

1 3 ASYAAD 38 B Hills 9-0 D O'Donohoe (3) 8
2 8364 BEWARE 26 R Armstrong 9-0 F Norton 7
3 00 SAXON VICTORY 24 W Haggas 9-0 S Whitworth 5
4 000 STRICTLY RHYTHM 21 Mrs S Bramall (Ire) 9-0 G Parkin (3) 4
5 0 TIME TO HUNT 40 B Murray 9-0 V Halliday 2
6 2 TITLE BID 8 M Stoute 9-0 F Lynch 1
7 0 BOLSHAYA 42 J Berry 8-9 Dale Gibson 6
8 00 INTUITIVE 15 J Eyre 8-9 T Williams 3
9 2264 IRIS MAY 36 (B) J Berry 8-9 J Fanning 9
10 335 MOVING PRINCESS 3 Miss S Hall 8-9 K Hodgson 10

15-8 Title Bid, 5-2 Asyaad, 5-1 Beware, 7-1 Iris May, Moving Princess, 14-1 Bolshaya, 20-1 Saxon Victory, 25-1 others

3.20 SKYRAM HANDICAP (£3,141: 1m 7f 177yd) (17)

1 d240- UNCLE DOUG 183J (D,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-10 S Copp (5) 9
2 4202 CHARTER 29 (V) W Storey 6-9-10 J Fanning 15
3 0554 EXACTLY 18 (F,G) J Eyre 4-9-5 T Williams 4
4 3010 BOLD TOP 18 (D,F) B Rothwell 5-9-2 J Stack 3
5 1211 IL PRINCIPE 5 (D,F,G) John Berry 3-8-11 (5ex) G Bardwell 7
6 d126 GOOD REPUTATION 12 B Hills 3-8-10 D O'Donohoe (3) 11
7 0055 ALWARQA 3 (F) M Wane 4-8-9 P P Murphy (3) 6
8 6050 TANIYAR 179 R Hollinshead 5-8-9 F Lynch 8
9 0650 KINOKO 5 (C,D,F,G,S) K Hogg 9-8-9 J Bramhill 12
10 4300 KULEPOPSIE 16 (B) A Mulholland 4-8-3 D Biggs 1
11 0032 DULAS BAY 28 M W Easterby 3-8-0 Dale Gibson 5
12 0025 STRAFFAN GOLD 24 (BF) Mrs M Reveley 3-7-13 F Norton 13
13 0434 FINESTATETOBEIN 28 F Watson 4-7-10 Kimberley Hart (5) 14
14 0000 WELCOME LU 5 (C,F,G) J L Harris 4-7-10 DOUBTFUL 2
15 6424 PENNY PEPPERMINT 18 R Barr 5-7-10 Iona Wands (5) 16
16 0200 BRUZ 22J L Lungo 6-7-10 P Bradley (7) 10
17 000- RANGER SLOANE 175J G Fierro 5-7-10 N Carlisle 17

3-1 Il Principe, 5-1 Dulas Bay, 7-1 Good Reputation, 8-1 Charter, 10-1 others.

3.50 CONSTANT SECURITY SERVICES HANDICAP (£3,850: 1m 3f 214yd) (7)

1 0120 TESSAJOE 30 (CD,F,G) M Camacho 5-10-0 S Copp (5) 4
2 1110 NIGEL'S LAD 95 (C,F,G) P Haslam 5-9-9 Dale Gibson 3
3 2626 CANTON VENTURE 26J (BF,D,F) S Woods 5-9-4 F Lynch 7
4 221 TYCOONESS 26 (D,G) M Johnston 3-8-13 J Fanning 2
5 /0/0 GOLDEN HELLO 8 (D,F,G) T Easterby 6-8-12 T Williams 1
6 0330 MAD MILITANT 22 (D,F,G,S) A Streeter 8-8-6 N Carlisle 6
7 3110 DOUBLE EIGHT 17 (D,F) B Hills 3-8-5 D O'Donohoe (3) 5

5-2 Tycooness, 7-2 Double Eight, 4-1 Canton Venture, 9-2 Tessajoe, 6-1 Nigel's Lad, 7-1 Mad Militant, 20-1 Golden Hello.

4.25 CATTERICK SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,198: 1m 5f 175yd) (7)

1 4245 SKELTON SOVEREIGN 52 (F) R Hollinshead 9-0 F Lynch 3
2 2056 RONQUISTA D'OR 77 G Ham 8-10 F Norton 5
3 0340 COCHITI 38 (B) C Thornton 8-5 T Williams 6
4 50-0 GROVEFAIR DANCER 9 F Yardley 8-5 J Fanning 2
5 0006 HEVER GOLF ANGEL 106 P Haslam 8-5 Dale Gibson 1
6 0500 HONIARA BAY 26 Miss A Stokell 8-5 P P Murphy (3) 4
7 6650 ZIGGY'S VIOLA 28 Mrs M Reveley 8-5 D O'Donohoe (3) 7

5-2 Cochiti, 3-1 Skelton Sovereign, Ziggy's Viola, 9-2 Hever Golf Angel, 6-1 Ronquista d'Or, 16-1 Grovefair Dancer, 33-1 Honiara Bay

4.55 RACING CHANNEL MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,821: 7f) (15)

1 0 BALLANTRAE BOY 91 J Goldie 9-0 T Williams 5
2 0000 IMPERIAL LINE 42 (B) A Mulholland 9-0 N Carlisle 14
3 45 KWIKPOINT 26 M Todhunter 9-0 J Stack 15
4 2640 MARYLEBONE 12 J Berry 9-0 O Pears 2
5 0 NITE OWLER 140 J O'Reilly 9-0 J Fanning 4
6 3034 PRESENT CHANCE 16 (BF) B McMahon 9-0 L Newton 7
7 THE MUNRO'S J Goldie 9-0 P P Murphy (3) 11
8 4242 TOPTON 11 (V) I Balding 9-0 S Whitworth 8
9 3 CANTINA 43 A Bailey 8-9 G Faulkner (5) 10
10 6 DAMARA 57 C Fairhurst 8-9 J Tate 12
11 0000 DANCE MELODY 56 G Oldroyd 8-9 K Hodgson 6
12 0- FANTASY FLIGHT 393 M Pelli 8-9 D O'Donohoe (3) 9
13 0- SIX SHOOTER 319 E Weymes 8-9 Dale Gibson 1
14 42 WARNING EXPRESS 37 (BF) R Armstrong 8-9 F Norton 3
15 06 WHO DEALT 43 R Hollinshead 8-9 F Lynch 13

11-10 Warning Express, 3-1 Topton, Present Chance, Marylebone, 14-1 others.

5.30 RACING AGAIN NEXT SATURDAY FILLIES HANDICAP (£3,015: 7f) (17)

1 5446 GIPSY PRINCESS 21 (B,CD,F) M W Easterby 3-9-12 S Finnamore (7) 13
2 0005 NAISSANT 5 (D,G,S) M Wane 4-9-11 D O'Donohoe (3) 12
3 0316 ANETTA 45 (F) Miss S Hall 3-9-11 S Copp (5) 8
4 3360 BOLLIN DOROTHY 11 (CD,S) T Easterby 4-9-10 T Williams 5
5 4526 BOLLERO 24 (D,G,S) J Berry 3-9-10 O Pears 14
6 6236 CELANDINE 11 (F) A Turnell 4-9-8 Dale Gibson 4
7 5000 CRISSEM 18 (F) R Hollinshead 4-9-7 F Lynch 7
8 4200 DELIGHT OF DAWN 3 (B,D,F,G) E Wheeler 5-9-7 S Carson (7) 10
9 000- GREY AGAIN 513 (D) D Shaw 5-9-6 C Teague (3) 6
10 4000 IN GOOD NICK 49 (B) M W Easterby 3-9-6 G Parkin (3) 15
11 0040 DISPOL DIAMOND 46 (D,F) G Oldroyd 4-9-6 K Hodgson 17
12 0401 LA VOLTA 5 (B,D,F,G) Miss J Craze 4-9-6 (6ex) S Webster 9
13 330 POLENKA 21 J Watts 3-9-5 J Fanning 2
14 0230 LAMORNA 5 (F) M Channon 3-9-3 P P Murphy (3) 1
15 -600 SHOWGIRL 26 J H Wilson 3-9-2 J Tate 16
16 -000 TAEL OF SILVER 24 (BF,D,F,G) A Bailey 5-9-1 F Norton 11
17 0500 KOMLUCKY 36 (V,CD,F,G) A Mulholland 5-9-0 G Faulkner (5) 3

5-1 La Volta, 6-1 Gipsy Princess, 7-1 Lamorna, Bollero, Celandine, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B Hills, 20 winners from 51 runners, 39.2%; J Glover, 5 from 13, 38.5%; D Barker, 4 from 16, 25.0%; M Channon, 10 from 43, 23.3%; M Stoute, 4 from 18, 22.2%; K Hogg, 6 from 33, 18.2%.

JOCKEYS: F Lynch, 5 winners from 26 rides, 19.2%; L Newton, 4 from 24, 16.7%; F Norton, 4 from 28, 14.3%; O Pears, 6 from 45, 13.3%; G Parkin, 5 from 42, 11.9%. Only qualifiers.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Newbury

Going: soft

2.10 (7f 64yd) 1, Sunley Seeker (L Dettori, 14-1); 2, Acid Test (12-1); 3, Bullion (4-1 fav); 4, Frolicking (16-1) 17 ran 2½l, 1¼l M Channon. Tote £15.20; £3.60, £2.00, £1.80, £5.60. DF: £139.40. Trio: £149.80. CSF: £147.75 Tricast: £759.40

2.40 (1m 2f 6yd) 1, Clan Ben (K Fallon, 7-1); 2, Crimson Tide (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Conon Falls (9-4 jt-fav). 5 ran ¾l, 3½l. H Cecil. Tote: £7.50; £2.10, £1.60 DF. £10.40. CSF: £19.93

3.10 (7f) 1, Amabel (M Hills, 14-1); 2, Hollow Haze (13-8 jt-fav); 3, Blue Gentian (13-8 jt-fav) 5 ran. 1½l, 2½l I Balding. Tote: £17.10; £2.90, £1.70. DF: £46.60 CSF: £35.60.

3.40 (1m) 1, Duck Row (S Sanders, 7-2); 2, Quiet Assurance (13-8 fav), 3, Evening World (2-1) 5 ran. 1½l, 3½l J Toller Tote: £6.30; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £6.00 CSF: £9.61.

4.10 (1m 4f 5yd) 1, Montecristo (Miss R Flynn, 10-1); 2, Two Socks (10-1); 3, Saint Ciel (20-1); 4, The Roundsills (16-1). Prospero 13-2 fav. 21 ran. NR: Duncombe Hall. 3l, nk. R Guest. Tote: £14.20; £4.20, £2.80, £5.30, £7.10 DF: £75.20. Trio: £2,148.10 CSF. £95.20 Tricast £1,850.33

4.40 (7f 64yd) 1, Jorrocks (L Dettori, 4-1); 2, Marjaana (7-1); 3, Blewbury Hill (12-1). All Is Fair 11-4 fav. 10 ran NR: Banzhaf. Waypoint. 2l, 1¾l. I Balding Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £2.10, £2.70. DF: £13.50 Trio: £37.20. CSF: £28.40 Tricast: £277.70

5.10 (1m) 1, Ghalib (R Hills, 7-2); 2, Brigand (3-1 jt-fav); 3, Mount Holly (3-1 jt-fav) 12 ran. 1l, 5l. W Hern Tote: £4.70; £2.30, £1.40, £1.70. DF. £9.00 Trio: £9.20 CSF: £13.35.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £58,130.83 carried forward to Newbury today).

Placepot: £594.50. Quadpot: £79.40.

Ayr

Going: good to soft

2.00 (1m 1f) 1, Falls O'Moness (J F Egan, 33-1); 2, Break The Rules (6-1); 3, Zorba (20-1). Brighstone 11-8 fav. 11 ran NR: Running Green. Nk, 5l. K Burke Tote £31.30; £4.10, £2.40, £3.00. DF: £187.00 Trio £470.10 CSF £180.66

2.30 (1m) 1, Fashion Victim (A Culhane, 25-1); 2, Tearaway (25-1); 3, Flower O'Cannie (20-1) Holy Wine 11-4 fav. 15 ran NR: River Beal. ¾l, 3l T Caldwell Tote £35.60; £4.60, £3.50, £4.40. DF. £292.20 CSF. £463.99 Tricast £11,161.48

3.00 (7f) 1, Confirmation (G Duffield, 7-4 fav), 2, Ho Leng (8-1), 3, King Of The River (6-1). 6 ran 1¼l, 3l M Prescott Tote £2.80; £1.80, £2.30 DF: £9.20. CSF: £12.71

3.30 (6f) 1, Regal Revolution (J Lowe, 16-1); 2, Sapphire Ring (5-2 fav); 3, Thanksgiving (12-1) 14 ran Nk, 2l P Walwyn Tote £16.70; £4.20, £1.80, £4.60. DF: £32.80 Trio: £196.70 CSF £49.49

4.00 (1m 2f) 1, Capilano Princess (S Drowne, 3-1 fav); 2, Rebel County (14-1); 3, Double Topaloni (14-1) 11 ran NR: Double Espresso ¾l, ¾l. D Haydn Jones Tote £3.70; £1.70, £2.60, £5.30 DF £23.20 Trio £141.30 CSF. £41.24. Tricast £459.96

4.30 (2m 1f 105yd) 1, Selmeston (R Ffrench, 8-1), 2, Opaque (9-2 fav); 3, Arian Spirit (10-1). 13 ran. Hd, 3l. S Williams Tote £10.30; £2.90, £1.40, £2.00. DF £34.00 Trio £128.10 CSF £37.81 Tricast £333.61

5.00 (7f) 1, Knobbleeneeze (J Fortune, 7-1); 2, Weetman's Weigh (16-1); 3, Pericles (16-1); 4, Royal Result (16-1) Sheltering Sky 2-1 fav. 18 ran Sh hd, nk. M Channon. Tote £7.90; £2.00, £3.30, £6.50, £3.50 DF: £45.20. Trio £368.40. CSF £101.67 Tricast £1,632.06

Placepot: £3,643.20. Quadpot: £31.10.

Huntingdon

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.20 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Tommy Cooper (E Byrne, 14-1); 2, Wickens One (10-1). 3, Mizig (11-2). Mick's Tycoon 5-2 fav. 10 ran 1¼l, 1½l Mrs B Waring Tote £21.00; £4.60, £2.80, £1.60 DF £87.50. Trio. £69.70. CSF £138.62 Tricast £803.17

2.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Fed On Oats (A P McCoy, 4-5 fav), 2, Euro Singer (7-4); 3, Snowdon Lily (11-1) 4 ran 4l, 25l Miss V Williams Tote: £1.70 DF £2.40 CSF £2.60

3.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Snowy Petrel (R Dunwoody, 10-1), 2, Roderick Hudson (11-2), 3, Mazilla (10-1) More Than You Know 4-5 fav. 11 ran 10l, 3l C Mann Tote £11.00; £2.30, £2.00, £2.20 DF £12.10 Trio £47.40, CSF £62.18

3.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Scottish Bambi (J Osborne, 7-4 fav); 2, I Have Him (3-1), 3, Cross Cannon (4-1) 6 ran 4l, 1¼l. P Webber Tote £2.70; £1.60, £1.70 DF £3.70. CSF £7.54.

4.20 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Game Dilemma (S Curran, 6-1), 2, Wumdha (11-2) 3, Thorne Arena (6-1) Ine Mon 9-2 jt-fav 12 ran 1l, nk. J Mullins. Tote £9.50; £2.50, £1.40, £1.90 DF. £26.30 Trio £77.80 CSF £41.51 Tricast £202.37

4.50 (3m ch) 1, Solo Gent (Mr E James, 4-1), 2, Mister Gobo (12-1), 3, Spring To It (9-4 fav) 6 ran 2½l, 3l A Jones Tote £6.20; £1.70, £5.10 DF £28.00 CSF £40.68.

5.20 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Latin Mistress (L Cummins, 2-1 fav) 2, Misty Class (4-1), 3, Posh Spice (7-1) 11 ran 2l, 4l P Nicholls Tote £2.60; £1.30, £3.00, £2.50 DF £11.60 Trio £27.40 CSF £9.89

Placepot: £1,946.40.

Quadpot: £140.90.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

1.45 Wayuphill. 2.15 Reve de Valse. 2.45 Contrafire. 3.15 Greenfinch. *3.45 My Missile.* 4.20 Trump. 4.50 Ben Doula.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.45 ULLSWATER NOVICES HURDLE (£2,346: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 0-00 BERNERA 83 J Mackie 5-10-10 R Supple
2 0-F4 CHIEF OF KHORASSAN 23 S Kettlewell 5-10-10 R Johnson
3 553- DONT FORGET CURTIS 116 Mrs K Lamb 5-10-10 Miss S Lamb (7)
4 0PP- HAWK HILL BOY 236 F Murtagh 6-10-10 A Dobbin
5 000- PERSUASIVE TALENT 220 (B) D Lamb 6-10-10 J Burke
6 0 HAMILTON PRINCESS 7 K Hogg 5-10-5 M Foster
7 153- WAYUPHILL 193 (BF,D,F,S) C Parker 10-10-5 D Parker (3)

4-5 Wayuphill, 6-1 Dont Forget Curtis, 7-1 Chief Of Khorassan, 8-1 Hamilton Princess, 10-1 Bernera, 14-1 Hawk Hill Boy, 16-1 Persuasive Talent

2.15 SOUR NOOK ROYAL OAK HANDICAP CHASE (£2,840: 2m) (10)

1 4-43 SPEAKER'S HOUSE 19 (V,D,F) Miss L Russell 8-11-10 A Thornton
2 2122 FURIETTO 26 (F,G) M Hammond 7-11-1 R Garritty
3 0-41 REVE DE VALSE 19 (D,F,G,S) R Johnson 10-10-13 K Johnson
4 0335 BIT OF A DREAM 7 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-10-9 R Guest
5 0/34 ANOTHER RED 15 (D,F,S) W Raw 9-10-6 R McGrath (5)
6 01P- GONE ASHORE 134 (D,F) M Barnes 6-10-4 A Dobbin
7 -FPP THE YOKEL 7 B Baugh 11-10-4 R Johnson
8 3-23 CARDENDEN 21 (D,F,G) J Barclay 9-10-3 C McCormack (7)
9 232- ALL CLEAR 119 (D,G,S) J Howard Johnson 6-10-0 D Parker (3)
10 5044 EARL GRAY 19 (B,F,G) A J Lockwood 10-10-0 Miss A Deniel

11-4 Reve de Valse, 3-1 Furietto, 4-1 All Clear, 13-2 Speaker's House, 7-1 Bit Of A Dream, 8-1 Gone Ashore, Cardenden, 10-1 others

2.45 BROTHERSWATER HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,192: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 24-4 CONTRAFIRE 7 (C,F) Mrs A Swinbank 5-12-0 J Supple
2 50-P MILS MIJ 34F (C,D,F,G,S) T Cuthbert 12-11-0 Carol Cuthbert
3 3112 LEAP IN THE DARK 15 (BF,D,F,S) Miss L Siddall 8-10-10 A Thornton
4 244/ MEMORABLE 5F (D,G,S) K Hogg 6-10-10 M Foster
5 PPP- STRATHMORE LODGE 148 (G) Mrs L Plater 8-10-0 D Bentley
6 /PP/ DARK FOUNTAIN 668 (F) J Dixon 10-10-0 L O'Hara

11-10 Contrafire, 6-4 Leap In The Dark, 6-1 Memorable, 20-1 Mils Mij, 25-1 Dark Fountain, 33-1 Strathmore Lodge

3.15 RED RUM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,453: 3m) (5)

1 40-1 ROYAL VACATION 28 (C,D,F,G) G M Moore 8-12-0 J Callaghan
2 21-U CUMBERLAND BLUES 19 (D,F,G) A J Lockwood 8-10-12 Miss A Deniel
3 463- GARBO'S BOY 205 (G) J Turner 7-10-1 R Supple
4 6-23 GREENFINCH 15 (BF) F Murtagh 6-10-0 A Dobbin
5 2-65 JAUNTY GIG 15 (B,CD,F,G) J Birkett 11-10-0 L O'Hara

5-6 Royal Vacation, 7-2 Greenfinch, 9-2 Garbo's Boy, 13-2 Cumberland Blues, 8-1 Jaunty Gig

3.45 GOLDEN PHEASANT CLIBURN HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,276: 2m 1f) (7)

1 214- WELL APPOINTED 134F (CD,F,G) B Mactaggart 8-11-10 G Lee (3)
2 355- PENTLAND SQUIRE 166 J Jefferson 6-11-5 A K Smith (7)
3 2-23 CHILL WIND 5F (CD,F,G,S) N Bycroft 8-10-11 R Supple
4 45-3 SILENT GUEST 23 (BF,F) M Hammond 4-10-9 R Garritty
5 00-2 HOBBS CHOICE 19 (V,F) G M Moore 4-10-9 J Callaghan
6 44-3 MY MISSILE 19 R Cockburn 7-10-0 L O'Hara
7 3/00 SPIDERS DELIGHT 19 T Cuthbert 9-10-0 K Johnson

11-4 Hobbs Choice, 3-1 Silent Guest, 4-1 Pentland Squire, Chill Wind, 6-1 Well Appointed, 14-1 My Missile, 33-1 Spiders Delight.

4.20 CUMBRIA LEISURE AVENUE INN NOVICES CHASE (£2,918: 3m) (9)

1 -511 TWO FOR ONE 21 (D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 8-11-12 A Thornton
2 P-41 THE ENERGISER 15 (F) D Lamb 11-11-5 J Burke
3 33-6 MASTER KIT 22 (D,F,G,S) J Billinge 8-11-2 Mr M Bradburne (7)
4 0-PP GOODHEAVENS MRTONY 15 (D,G) A J Lockwood 10-10-12 A Dobbin
5 4/2- HOBKIRK 228 A Whillans 8-10-12 K Johnson
6 40-4 MR REINER 15 (F,G,S) J Wade 9-10-12 R Johnson
7 F20- PEBBLE BEACH 149 (F) G M Moore 7-10-12 J Callaghan
8 34P- TRUMP 5F (D,F,G,S) C Parker 8-10-12 D Parker (3)
9 -444 WHITE DIAMOND 15 (V,D,F,S) Miss L Russell 9-10-12 D Reid (7)

3-1 Trump, 7-2 Pebble Beach, 5-1 Mr Reiner, 6-1 Two For One, Hobkirk, 7-1 The Energiser, 14-1 Master Kit, 16-1 others

4.50 DERWENT INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 2m 1f) (17)

1 5 ARDENT SCOUT 19 Mrs S Smith 5-11-4 R Guest
2 66- BEN DOULA 128 Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 P Niven
3 BUCKS GALA D Lamb 5-11-4 J Burke
4 C'MON TIGER Dianne Sayer 5-11-4 A Dobbin
5 CALLFOURSEASONS A Bailey 5-11-4 S Wynne
6 0- IFAFA BEACH 253 M Barnes 5-11-4 S Taylor (5)
7 PADDYS ON A ROLL Mrs H Graham 6-11-4 Mr M Bradburne (7)
8 4 RUBON PRINCE 19 N Mason 6-11-4 R Johnson
9 1PP- SKY RUNNER 125P (F) M Mulineaux 6-11-4 A Thornton
10 BROMFORD HOUSE G M Moore 4-11-2 J Callaghan
11 2 ESTATE AGENT 19 (BF) C Thornton 4-11-2 N Horrocks (7)
12 06 INDIAN VICEROY 73 J Turner 4-11-2 R Supple
13 KNAYTON KNIGHT J Jefferson 4-11-2 E Callaghan (3)
14 0 SAMSHAN 7 K Hogg 4-11-2 M Foster
15 BLOW WAVE K Hogg 6-10-13 K Johnson
16 SPEKTRA D Nolan 5-10-13 S McDougall
17 BUSHMILLS F Murtagh 4-10-11 C McCormack (7)

9-4 Estate Agent, 3-1 Rubon Prince, 13-2 Ardent Scout, 7-1 Ben Doula, Bromford House, 8-1 Callfourseasons, Knayton Knight, 20-1 others

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Pedro. 7.30 Taragona. 8.00 Beyond Calculation. 8.30 Pointe Fine. 9.00 Lady Eil. 9.30 Red Phantom.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

7.00 E B F MALI MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,518: 1m 100yd) (8 runners)

1 5 COPERNICUS 11 P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 8
2 2 FLYING BOLD 12 W Muir 9-0 Martin Dwyer 6
3 0042 GIFT OF GOLD 19 I Campbell 9-0 A Mackay 2
4 0 PEDRO 11 M Prescott 9-0 S Sanders 4
5 6 ROYAL SHOCK 11 (V) D Loder 9-0 K Fallon 7
6 336 WUXI VENTURE 11 S Woods 9-0 N Day 5
7 25 CASINO ACE 15 (BF) P Chapple-Hyam 8-9 R Havlin (3) 3
8 LASCENSA P Kelleway 8-9 G Bardwell 1

6-4 Casino Ace, 5-1 Wuxi Venture, 6-1 Gift Of Gold, 7-1 Pedro, 8-1 Flying Bold, Royal Shock, 14-1 Copernicus, 16-1 Lascensa.

7.30 L A METALS 10TH ANNIVERSARY MAIDEN HANDICAP (£3,154: 1m 100yd) (13)

1 2000 JOLLY JACKSON 39 R Akehurst 3-10-0 T Quinn 11
2 6450 SUPERCHARMER 26 (V) R Jackes 3-10-0 Sophie Mitchell 4
3 0-50 DRIFT 12 (BF) M Prescott 3-9-4 S Sanders 8
4 -050 CHILI BOUCHIER 30 D Marks 3-9-2 R Havlin (3) 1
5 3540 TARAGONA 25 R Hollinshead 4-9-0 K Fallon 7
6 00-0 THATCHAM ISLAND 11 D Williams 4-8-10 P Cleary (7) 9
7 5000 GABLESEA 57 B Baugh 3-8-7 R Perham 10
8 000- PRINCE JORDAN 322 I Campbell 3-8-6 A Mackay 12
9 0000 COLONEL'S PRIDE 35 R Whitaker 3-8-5 D R McCabe 3
10 5-00 KOSEVO 78 M Meagher 3-8-3 A Whelan (3) 5
11 6-04 D J CAT 12 W Muir 4-8-3 Martin Dwyer 2
12 3330 ARRASAS LADY 48 J Poulton 7-8-2 J Fowle (7) 13
13 -600 WITH THE TEMPO 137 Dr J Scargill 4-8-2 G Bardwell 6

3-1 Drift, 5-1 Jolly Jackson, 11-2 D J Cat, 8-1 Taragona, 10-1 others

8.00 KENYA HANDICAP (£3,262: 6f) (13)

1 1036 DESERT INVADER 36 (BF,CD) D Chapman 6-10-0 D Sweeney (3) 2
2 1500 BARRACK YARD 16 (CD) A Stewart 4-9-12 S Whitworth 12
3 6000 NAPIER STAR 5 (V,C,D) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-12 W J O'Connor 11
4 0006 TAKHLID 26 (CD,F,S) D Chapman 6-9-12 A Culhane 10
5 4035 BEYOND CALCULATION 37 P Harris 3-9-11 C Lowther (5) 8
6 0500 HOH RETURNS 28 (D,F) R Preece 4-9-8 S Sanders 6
7 1003 WATCH THE FIRE 5 (D,F,G,S) J Banks 4-9-8 A Mackay 5
8 5000 SHADOW JURY 8 (B,C,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-5 J Fortune 1
9 2660 ERUPT 30 (D,S) G Balding 4-9-4 S Drowne 7
10 0030 HANNAH'S USHER 2 (CD,F,G) C Murray 5-9-4 Nicola Howarth 3
11 4600 MOI CANARD 23 (CD,F) B Pearce 4-9-4 K Fallon 9
12 3002 LITTLE IBNR 142 (CD,F) P Cundell 6-9-3 N Day 4
13 0000 LEIGH CROFTER 134 (C,D,F,G,S) P Cundell 8-9-3 R Perham 13

7-2 Takhlid, 5-1 Little Ibnr, 6-1 Desert Invader, 7-1 Beyond Calculation, 8-1 Watch The Fire, 10-1 Shadow Jury, 12-1 Erupt, Hannah's Usher, 14-1 others

8.30 MOZAMBIQUE LIMITED STAKES (£2,070: 1m 6f 166yd) (12)

1 5100 PARADISE NAVY 17 (B,D,F,G) C Egerton 8-9-10 R Ffrench (3) 11
2 4/10 LAKE DOMINION 5 (C) K Comerford 8-9-6 W J O'Connor 4
3 U400 FRESH FRUIT DAILY 41 (C,F) P Kelleway 5-9-5 C Lowther (5) 8
4 6116 BROUGHTONS FORMULA 205 (CD,F,G) W Musson 7-9-4 D R McCabe 6
5 0650 SUBTLE TOUCH 22 (V) P Gilligan 6-9-4 J Stack 3
6 5-60 SWORDKING 57 (B,CD,G,S) J L Harris 8-9-4 A Culhane 9
7 3102 LA MENORQUINA 12 (C) D Marks 7-9-3 J Fortune 1
8 5106 ROBBO 12 (B) C Thornton 3-8-9 Dean McKeown 12
9 0450 SALSEE LAD 18 J Fanshawe 3-8-7 S Sanders 2
10 0004 SIGNED AND SEALED 12 C Cyzer 3-8-7 A Whelan (3) 10
11 4424 CEANOTHUS 12 (BF) W Haggas 3-8-4 S Drowne 7
12 2423 POINTE FINE 35 J Hills 3-8-4 K Fallon 5

3-1 La Menorquina, 6-1 Broughtons Formula, Pointe Fine, Ceanothus, 8-1 others.

9.00 DUNSTALL PARK 2-Y-O SELLING STAKES (2-Y-O: £1,725: 7f) (12)

1 1445 CAPTAIN BLISS 17 (B,D,F) N Tinkler 9-2 Kim Tinkler 8
2 4010 WILDCAT 11 (D,F) Miss G Kelleway 9-2 K Fallon 10
3 0305 EMPEROR'S GOLD 5 I Campbell 8-11 A Mackay 4
4 4136 ROCK FROM THE SUN 40 (B,CD) W G M Turner 8-11 D Sweeney (3) 6
5 SHARP MONKEY Mrs N Macauley 8-11 W J O'Connor 7
6 0 UTHER PENDRAGON 31 J Bennett 8-11 G Bardwell 11
7 IVORY GIRL K Wingrove 8-6 N Day 9
8 0 LADY EIL 38 B Smart 8-6 J Stack 1
9 00 LINDA 12 N Callaghan 8-6 S Drowne 2
10 0 LITTLE CRACKER 36 A Newcombe 8-6 F Norton 5
11 6334 PINK TICKET 17 P Evans 8-6 J F Egan 12
12 00 ROMANTIC SECRET 65 R Juckes 8-6 V Slattery 3

11-8 Wildcat, 4-1 Emperor's Gold, 13-2 Captain Bliss, Rock From The Sun, 8-1 Pink Ticket, 12-1 Sharp Monkey, Ivory Girl, Lady Eil, 16-1 others.

9.30 ZAMBIA HANDICAP (£1,932: 1m 4f) (12)

1 0255 FATHER DAN 11 (BF,D,F,G) Gay Kelleway 8-9-13 K Fallon 12
2 130- YOUNG BUTT 463 (C,S) B Pearce 4-9-12 C Lowther (5) 6
3 0105 OUR MAIN MAN 47 (D,F) R Whitaker 7-9-13 O Pears 2
4 04-4 BRECON 12 W Muir 4-9-11 Martin Dwyer 1
5 5000 ENGLISH INVADER 11 (CD,S) C Dwyer 6-9-10 J Fortune 5
6 1026 WENTBRIDGE LAD 21 (V,C,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-8 R Ffrench (3) 4
7 0300 MR SPECULATOR 21 (V,CD,F) J Banks 4-9-7 G Bardwell 11
8 2203 WILDFIRE 35 (D,S) R Akehurst 6-9-6 S Sanders 3
9 00-0 POLONAISE PRINCE 12 V Soane 4-9-5 C Rutter 9
10 0010 RED PHANTOM 12 (V,C,D) S Mellor 5-9-5 M Wigham 10
11 -133 ROYAL ROULETTE 94 (V) S Woods 3-9-4 N Day 8
12 5201 GOOD DAY 122 (B,S) C Thornton 3-9-2 Dean McKeown 7

11-4 Wildfire, 9-2 Royal Roulette, 5-1 Father Dan, 6-1 Good Day, 10-1 Wentbridge Lad, Red Phantom, 12-1 Young Butt, Our Main Man, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS. A Stewart, 4 winners from 5 runners, 80.0%; D Loder, 9 from 26, 34.6%; J Banks, 7 from 24, 29.2%; Sir M Prescott, 21 from 95, 22.1%; N Callaghan, 4 from 21, 19.0%

JOCKEYS: D Sweeney, 11 winners from 58 rides, 19.0%; R Ffrench, 3 from 17, 17.6%; T Quinn, 7 from 41, 17.1%; Martin Dwyer, 4 from 28, 14.3%; K Fallon, 12 from 86, 14.0%; D McCabe, 11 from 79, 13.9%

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

DR MARTENS LEAGUE. Premier division: Ashford v Nuneaton, Atherstone v Bromsgrove, Bath v Hastings, Crawley v Tamworth, Dorchester v Burton Albion, Gloucester v St Leonard's, Gresley v Forest Green, King's Lynn v Halesowen, Merthyr v Rothwell, Sittingbourne v Salisbury, Worcester City v Cambridge City. Midland division: Corby v Solihull Boro; Grantham v Blakenall; Hinckley Utd v Brackley Town; Moor Green v Paget R; RC Warwick v Bedworth; Raunds T v Bilston; Redditch v Shepshed D; Stafford v Evesham; Sutton Coldfield Town v VS Rugby; Wisbech Town v Ilkeston. Southern division: Selsey v Bashley, Cirencester Town v Newport IoW, Fareham v Clevedon, Fleet T v Dartford, Havant v Cinderford, Tonbridge Angels v Trowbridge, Waterlooville v Newport AFC, Weston-super-Mare v Margate, Weymouth v Witney; Yate v Erith and Belvedere.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Guiseley, Alfreton v Bamber Bridge, Barrow v Colwyn Bay; Blyth Spartans v Leigh RMI; Boston v Marine; Emley v Lancaster, Gainsborough v Altrincham, Radcliffe v Bishop Auckland; Runcorn v Hyde; Spennymoor v Chorley; Winsford v Frickley. *First division: Ashton United v Whitley Bay,* Belper Town v Workington, Congleton v Flixton, Droylsden v Stocksbridge PS, Farsley Celtic v Buxton, Gretna v Bradford Pk Ave. Matlock Town v Whitby; Netherfield v Harrogate Town, Trafford v Eastwood Town, Albion v Lincoln United, Worksop v Great Harwood

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Dagenham and Redbridge, Bishop's Stortford v Walton and Hersham, Bromley v Aylesbury, Carshalton v Kingstonian; Enfield v Sutton United; Gravesend and Northfleet v Oxford City, Harrow v Chesham, Heybridge v Yeading, Hitchin v Boreham Wood, Purfleet v Hendon, St Albans v Dulwich. First division: Abingdon Town v Hampton, Aldershot Town v Croydon, Berkhamsted v Romford, Billericay v Barton Rovers, Bognor Regis v Chertsey; Leyton Pennant v Leatherhead, Staines v Maidenhead, Wembley v Thame Utd; Whyteleafe v Uxbridge, Wokingham v Molesey, Worthing v Grays. Second division: Barking v Wivenhoe, Bedford T v Banstead, Canvey Island v Chalfont St Peter, Egham v Braintree, Horsham v Tooting and Mitcham; Hungerford v Tilbury, Met Police v Marlow, Northwood v Edgware, Wealdstone v Cheshunt, Windsor and Eton v Bracknell, Witham v Leighton Town. Third division. Aveley v Harlow; Camberley Town v Epsom and Ewell, Clapton v Kingsbury, Dorking v Ford Utd; Flackwell Heath v Lewes, H Hempstead v Hertford, Hornchurch v Croydon Tring v Corinthian-Casuals, Ware v Southall, Wingate and Finchley v East Thurrock.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caersws v Flint Town (2.30), Connah's Quay v Aberystwyth (2.30), Cwmbran v Bangor City (2.0), Ebbw Vale v *Caernarfon (2.30), Haverfordwest v* Porthmadog (2.30), Inter Cable-Tel v Cemaes Ynys Mon (2.30), Rhayader Town v Conwy (2.30), Rhyl v Carmarthen Town (2.30), Welshpool v Barry (2.30)

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division. Ards v Coleraine, Glenavon v Crusaders, Glentoran v Portadown, Linfield v Cliftonville, Omagh v Ballymena.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry v UCD (7.30), Drogheda v Cork (7.30), Kilkenny v Sligo (7.30)

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham v Almondsbury, Carterton v Shortwood, Endsleigh v North *Leigh, Hallen v Wantage, Highworth v Harrow* Hill, Kintbury v Swindon Supermarine, Tuffley v Banbury

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Bedlington Terriers, Dunston Federation v Guisborough, Durham v South Shields, Easington v Seaham Red Star, Jarrow Roofing v Penrith, Morpeth v Crook, Murton v Billingham Town; RTM Newcastle v Consett; Shildon v Northallerton, Tow Law v Stockton

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Cray v Ramsgate, Crockenhill v Hythe, Slade Green v Chatham, Whitstable Town v Corinthian, VCD v Sheppey.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Keynsham, Bridgwater v Chippenham, Brislington v Bridport, Calne v Elmore, Chard v Westbury, Mangotsfield Utd v Taunton, Melksham v Odd Down, Paulton R v Bideford; Torrington v Bristol Manor Farm, Backwell v Tiverton

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Beaconsfield v Barkingside, Brimsdown v Hanwell, Brook House v Haringey Boro, Cockfosters v Ruislip Manor, Hillingdon Boro v Amersham, Islington v Harefield, Woodford v St Margaretsbury. Premier division north: Arlesey Town v London Colney; Biggleswade v *Letchworth, Brache Sparta v Bedford, Milton* Keynes v Buckingham Athletic, Royston v Harpenden, Toddington v Potters Bar, Welwyn Garden v Hoddesdon.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v Gillingham (11.0), Crystal Palace v Ipswich (11.0), Fulham v Portsmouth (11.0), Millwall v Leyton Orient (11.0), Norwich v Arsenal (11.0), Queens Park Rangers v Charlton (11.0), Tottenham v Southend (11.0), West Ham v Watford (11.0). Second division: Bournemouth v Wimbledon (11.0), Brentford v Tottenham (11.0), Bristol Rovers v Wycombe (11.0), Colchester v Swindon (11.0); Luton v Brighton (11.0). Reading v Barnet (11.0); Southampton v Bristol City (11.0)

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Boston Community College v Kenilworth; Coleshill v Cheslyn Hay, Coventry Sphinx v Handrahan Timbers, GPT (Coventry) v Bolehill Swifts, Highgate v Southam; Knowle v Continental Star, Massey Ferguson v *Worcestero. Studley BKL v Dudley Sports,* Wellesbourne v Meir KA.

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Hartley Wintney; Chessington and Hook v Cove, Chipstead v Bedfont, Cobham v Farnham, Feltham v Merstham, Reading Town v Netherne; Sandhurst v Godalming and Guilford; Viking Sports v Raynes Park Vale, Walton Casuals v Ash; Westfield v Cranleigh

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Collieries v Haslingden; Blackpool Rovers v Glossop North End; Chadderton v Warrington; Darwen v Atherton LR, Kidsgrove v Nantwich Town, Maine Road v Clitheroe, Prescot Cables v Newcastle Town, Ramsbottom v St Helens, Rossendale v Burscough, Vauxhall GM v Holker Old Boys

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Basildon U v Great Wakering; Concord Rangers v Burnham Ramblers, East Ham v Bowers, Hullbridge Sports v Brentwood, Ilford v Saffron Walden; Sawbridgeworth v Southend *Manor; Stansted v Eton Manor*

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich S v Tividale, Bustleholme v Stafford T, Cradley Town v Stourport S, Gornal A v Kington Town, Ludlow T v Brierley Hill T, Malvern T v Ettingshall, Walsall Wood v Darlaston, Wolverhampton v Wolverhampton C

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: *Premier division: Diss v Bury Town; Fakenham* v Felixstowe Port and; Gorleston v Ely; Harwich *and Parkeston* v Histon, Newmarket v Sudbury; Soham v Halstead; Stowmarket v *Lowestoft:* Sudbury v Great Yarmouth, Tiptree v Warboys, Woodbridge Town v Watton, Wroxham v Clacton

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v AFC Newbury; Aerostructures v Thatcham Town, Bournemouth v Romsey, Brockenhurst v Whitchurch, Cowes Sports v Wimborne, East Cowes v Christchurch, Eastleigh v BAT, Gosport v Andover, Portsmouth v Lymington, Ryde Sports v Bemerton Heath

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough v S and L Corby; Kempston v Stamford, Long Buckby v Cogenhoe; M Blackstone v N Spencer, Potton v Eynesbury; St Neots v Buckingham, Spalding v Wootton

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Arundel v Redhill; Eastbourne Town v Horsham YMCA

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v King's Norton, Bloxwich Town v Rocester; Boldmere St M v Stapenhill, Bridgnorth v Chasetown; Knypersley V v Sandwell, Oldbury v Pershore T, Rushall O v Willenhall, Shifnal T v Halesowen H, Stratford T v Pelsall V, Wednesfield v W Mid Police

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: *Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Ossett* Albion, Denaby v Arnold, Hallam v Hatfield Main, Hucknall Town v Maltby MW, Liversedge v Curzon Ashton, North Ferriby v Brigg Town, Ossett Town v Glasshoughton Welfare, Pontefract Cols v Eccleshill, Selby v Sheffield, Thackley v Pickering.

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

DERBY: Derbyshire v Yorkshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Lancashire
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Worcestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Surrey
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Durham
TAUNTON: Somerset v Glamorgan
HOVE: Sussex v Nottinghamshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Heineken Cup
Pool A

Milan v Leinster
Toulouse v Leicester (5.05)

Pool C

Bath v Brive (2.15)
Scottish Borders v Pontypridd (at Poynder Park, Kelso, 7.0)

Pool D

Munster v Bourgoin (at Thomond Park, Limerick)

Pool E

Llanelli v Treviso (2.0)
Pau v Caledonia (5.0)

European Conference
Pool A

Agen v Bristol (1.15)
La Rochelle v Ebbw Vale (4.0)

Pool C

Farul Constanta v London Irish (2.30)

Pool D

Begles-Bordeaux v Connacht (7.0)
Northampton v Nice (5.0)

Pool E

Bridgend v Colomiers (2.0)
Richmond v Grenoble

Pool F

Beziers v Gloucester (8.30)

Allied Dunbar Premiership
Second division

Bedford v London Scottish
Blackheath v Fylde
Exeter v Waterloo
Orrell v Moseley
Rotherham v West Hartlepool
Wakefield v Coventry

Jewson National League
First division

Liverpool St Helens v Newbury
Lydney v Leeds
Morley v London Welsh
Nottingham v Harrogate
Reading v Wharfedale
Rugby v Rosslyn Park
Worcester v Otley

Second division north

Aspatria v Kendal
Birmingham/Solihull v Manchester
Lichfield v Hinckley
Nuneaton v Winnington Park
Sandal v Stourbridge
Sheffield v Sedgley Park
Walsall v Preston Grasshoppers

Second division south

Barking v Havant
Camberley v Clifton
Esher v Cheltenham
Henley v Weston-super-Mare
Metropolitan Police v Redruth
Plymouth v North Walsham
Tabard v Bridgwater

SOUTH WEST: First division. Bracknell v Gloucester Old Boys, High Wycombe v Barnstaple, Launceston v Berry Hill, Matson v Stroud, Penzance and Newlyn v St Ives, Torquay v Maidenhead

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST. First division. Basingstoke v Askeans, Harlow v Charlton Park, Norwich v Southend, Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Guildford and Godalming, Staines v Cheshunt, Sudbury v Ruislip, Sutton and Epsom v Thurrock, Wimbledon v Thanet Wanderers

MIDLANDS: First division: Barkers Butts v Broadstreet, Kenilworth v Leighton Buzzard, Scunthorpe v Mansfield, Stoke-on-Trent v Hereford, Syston v Banbury, Westleigh v Derby, Whitchurch v Camp Hill, Wolverhampton v Burton

NORTH: First division. Bridlington v Wigton, Broughton Park v Stockton, Doncaster v Hull Ionians, Macclesfield v New Brighton, Widnes v Tynedale, West Park Bramhope v Middlesbrough

Welsh League
First division

Bonymaen v Treorchy (2.0)
Caerphilly v Newbridge (2.0)
Cardiff Institute v Aberavon (2.0)
Cross Keys v Dunvant (2.0)
Maesteg v Blackwood (2.0).
Merthyr v Abertillery (2.0)
Rumney v Llandovery (2.0)
South Wales Police v Pontypool (2.0)

SRU League Trophy
Group A

Edinburgh Acads v Currie
Gala v Heriot's FP
Hawick v Musselburgh
Kirkcaldy v Glasgow Hawks
Melrose v Preston Lodge

Group B

Boroughmuir v Stirling County
Dundee HSFP v Jed-Forest
Kelso v Biggar
Watsonians v Kilmarnock
West of Scotland v Peebles

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Egremont v Askam, Heworth v Walney Central, Leigh Miners v Beverley, Saddleworth v Oldham St Anne's, West Hull v Dudley Hill, Wigan St Patrick's v Mayfield, Woolston v Lock Lane. First division: Blackbrook v Wigan St Jude's, Eastmoor v Leigh East, Milford v Redhill, Millom v Skirlaugh; Oulton v Moldgreen, Shaw Cross v *Barrow Island; Thornhill v East Leeds.* Second division: Dewsbury Moor v Hull Dockers, Dodworth v Crosfields, Featherstone Amateur v Eccles; London Students v Siddal, New Earswick v Normanton; Ovenden v York Acorn

HOCKEY

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Hightown v Slough, Sutton Coldfield v Clifton, Scottish Life, Olton Terraquest v Trojans, Ipswich v Doncaster. First division: Loughborough Students v Canterbury, Bracknell v Wimbledon, Bradford Swithenbank v Leicester, Chelmsford Highway v Sunderland Bedans. Second division: Woking Surfis v Old Loughtonians, Ealing v West Witney, Sherwood v Bluehans, Poynton v Aldridge

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v London Towers (7.30), Watford v Derby (7.30), Thames Valley v Newcastle (8.0), Worthing v Crystal Palace (8.0)

CYCLING: National time-trial series (final round, 42 miles, Barton-le-Clay, 2.0)

GOLF: British Masters (Forest of Arden) Guardian Irish Women's Open (in Dublin)

ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Sheffield Steelers v Manchester Storm (7.0), Paisley Pirates v Newcastle Cobras (7.0); Telford Tigers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.30), Basingstoke Bison v Cardiff Devils (6.30), Slough Jets v Bracknell Bees (6.30), Nottingham Panthers v Peterborough Pirates (7.0)

MOTOR SPORT: British touring car championship meeting (at Silverstone)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Berwick v Edinburgh (6.30); Isle of Wight v Hull (6.30), *Isle of Wight v Reading (8.0), Stoke v* Newcastle (7.30) Amateur League: Swindon and Reading v Ipswich and King's Lynn (4.30).

Tomorrow

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, final day of four, 104 overs minimum

DERBY: Derbyshire v Yorkshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Middlesex
BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v *Lancashire*
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Worcestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Surrey
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v *Durham*
TAUNTON: Somerset v Glamorgan
HOVE: Sussex v Nottinghamshire
EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Shamrock v Finn Harps (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Arnold v Garswood St Helens, Aston Villa v Blyth Spartans, Coventry v Huddersfield Ilkeston v Wolverhampton, Sheffield Wednesday v Bloxwich Town. Southern division: Barry v Leyton Orient; Brighton and Hove v Langford, Three Bridges v Southampton Saints, Whitehawk v Rushden and Diamonds, Wimbledon v Ipswich.

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup
Pool B

Glasgow v Swansea (at Scotstoun, Glasgow, 3.0)
Wasps v Ulster (3.0)

Pool D

Cardiff v Harlequins (2.15)

European Conference
Pool B

Sale v Newport (3.0)

Pool G

Edinburgh v Newcastle (at Goldenacre, 3.0)

Pool H

Saracens v Neath (3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Premiership
Semi-finals

Wigan v Sheffield (6.35)

Divisional Premiership
Semi-finals

Hull v Whitehaven (3.15)
Keighley v Huddersfield (3.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: *Budweiser League: Chester v* Worthing (5.30), Crystal Palace v Leicester (6.0), Sheffield v Watford (6.0), Leopards v Birmingham (5.0)

CYCLING: Tour of the Peak (84 miles, Buxton).

GOLF: British Masters (Forest of Arden). Guardian Irish Women's Open (in Dublin)

***ICE HOCKEY:** Benson and Hedges Cup. Ayr* Scottish Eagles v Sheffield Steelers (6.30), Newcastle Cobras v Telford Tigers (6.30), Manchester Storm v Paisley Pirates (6.0), Bracknell Bees v Nottingham Panthers (6.0), Cardiff Devils v Slough Jets (6.0), Peterborough Pirates v Basingstoke Bison (6.15)

MOTOR SPORT: *British touring car championship meeting* (at Silverstone).

SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v Belle Vue (7.30), Coventry v Poole (6.0); Eastbourne v King's Lynn (3.30); Swindon v Wolverhampton (7.0) Premier League: Glasgow v Long Eaton (6.30), Newport v Newcastle (2.30). Stoke v Oxford (6.30) Amateur League: Buxton v Long Eaton and Wolverhampton (3.0), Belle Vue v Ryde (IoW) (at Buxton, 4.30).

TRIATHLON: London Triathlon (in Docklands)

Back from the brink: the making of Lawrence Dallaglio, who joins *The Times* rugby team next week

Model professional happy to strut the captaincy catwalk

DAVID HANDS

The planes of Lawrence Dallaglio's face are flat and hard, carved there by nature and defined by family sorrow. But the eyes above are humorous, there is purpose in the stride and a natural courtesy: the cocktail is one that, added to his talent for playing rugby union, suggests a man rapidly finding his way in a turbulent sporting world.

Will the path lead to the England captaincy? That decision has yet to be made by a management team only bedding itself in this week, but Lawrence Bruno Nero Dallaglio has heard the suggestion so many times that he has grown philosophical about the prospect — well, as philosophical as the product of an Italian father and an Anglo-Irish mother can be.

If, at 25, Dallaglio represents the model professional player, he leaves no doubt of the value he places upon rugby, which, for a prolonged period of his life, represented a crutch, a pool into which he could slip and slough off care. It was not always so. Growing up in London, he identified primarily with football clubs and will still watch Chelsea whenever he has the chance. Born in Shepherds Bush, he was the boy at the kickabout, the streetwise kid accustomed as a seven-year-old to making his own way to school and back.

'Therapy of rugby kept me going'

That Wasps, the club he has led with such distinction for the past two years, now play at Loftus Road represents a wheel turning, since that is only a mile from his birthplace and a reminder of his affection for football. Juventus was the team that his father, Vincenzo, followed when he lived in Turin, but the young Dallaglio had friends who encouraged him to travel to Staines to play mini-rugby for five years.

Perhaps there have been two turning-points in his life. The first came when, as a 13-year-old, his parents sent him (travelling alone) to Ampleforth and he found himself amid that splendid Yorkshire isolation, looking down the valley over a sea of rugby pitches. "It was a bitter pill to swallow," Dallaglio said. "I guessed I wouldn't be doing much kicking around there.

"At the time I found the change difficult to take. Maybe I had had too much independence — London is like that, if you want to do something different you can just go out and do it. Ampleforth was a culture shock — 13 weeks at a time in that self-contained atmosphere was so unlike anything I had known before."

However, Vincenzo and Eileen Dallaglio, making the financial sacrifices that so many parents do, wanted to send their son to one of the country's leading Catholic schools and were helped by the success of their other child, Francesca, in winning a scholarship to ballet school.

Francesca Dallaglio died, only 19, when the pleasure boat, *Marchioness*, sank on the River Thames in 1989, ten days after her brother's seventeenth birthday. "She started dancing when she was five and it was clear she had talent," Dallaglio said. "Initially the tragedy tore us apart. I look round sometimes and see families in England who only seem to come together at times of great sadness.

"With us it was the other way round. We were a very close-knit family, with strong family values. Coming from Italian stock that's no surprise, but the accident tore at the heart of what was dear to us. It was very difficult to come to terms with." Dallaglio has told the same tale frequently enough now, but there is nothing trite or sentimental in his memory. The finality of death completely eroded a comfortable world and for two years he was, in his own words, "on another planet".

He left Ampleforth a year early, struggled to take his A levels at tutorial college and did not distinguish himself. There was no focus to his life and, while his mother threw herself into a lengthy campaign for a public inquiry into the tragedy, Dallaglio found his own way out through sport.

Ampleforth had lit the flame. He played wing and fly half before he shot up to 6ft 4in and switched to No 8. He played in an outstanding first XV alongside the likes of Richard Booth and Patrick Bingham, backs who toured Australia with England Schools in 1988 with Martin Johnson, Damian Hopley and Adedayo Adebayo.

Success in the national schools sevens at Roehampton in 1989, when Ampleforth won the open and the festival tournaments, was cherished, but it was on a murky Wednesday evening that he found himself playing for North of England schools against Middlesex at Sudbury. Wasps took an interest in the youngster and when, after his sister's death, Dallaglio needed to find a path, the North London club offered one.

The family home was in Barnes and Rosslyn Park or Harlequins would have been nearer, but Wasps "had made me feel a bit special. They were a warm club with family values and it was important they didn't know much about me or my background. I had to find a way of doing well for myself, for my sister and for my parents, and rugby was a therapy. It kept me going".

Religion helped, too, if not in the formal sense. Dallaglio accepted the strong beliefs of his parents, absorbed the principles to which he was exposed at Ampleforth and translated the values they established into sport. "You develop your own beliefs as you grow older, core values which can be applied in almost any circumstances," he said. "Our's wasn't a large family and we had to pull together, but it taught me a harsh lesson. Everyone has some cross to bear, but our's came a lot earlier than expected."

'My plan was to lead by example'

Dallaglio joined Wasps in 1990, just another youngster who hoped to crack the first XV, never mind England. These became his river days when, with an Irish friend, he helped to refurbish a houseboat on the Thames, which became his home. "People said 'how can you do that, it's where your sister died?' But I found a lot of peace there, I felt very close to her," he said.

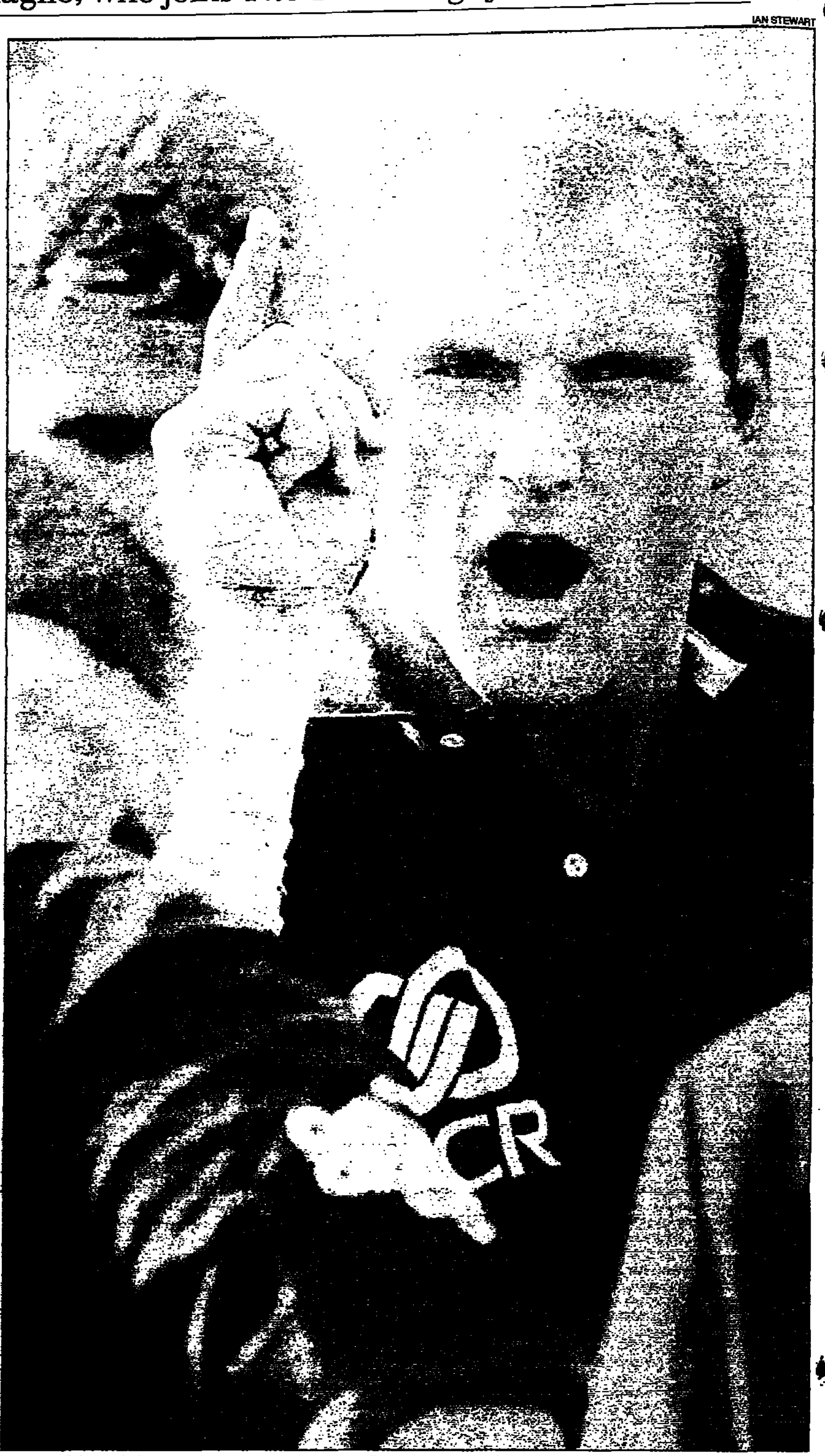
He started a course in urban estate management at Kingston Polytechnic but the social side of student life passed him by, such was the discipline he applied to his rugby. "The attitude I had was not that of an amateur, even though professionalism was still some way off," he said. His reward came initially through selection for the England team that won the World Cup sevens in 1993.

Jack Rowell, then the England coach, had a look at the bristling flanker on tour in South Africa in 1994, but looked elsewhere for his World Cup party the next year. It completed the making of Dallaglio. Professionalism stripped Wasps of their spine when Rob Andrew, Steve Bates and Dean Ryan were snapped up by Newcastle and Dallaglio was asked to captain the side. The first of his 12 caps followed and he has not looked back, captaining Wasps to the championship last season and playing a leading role in the British Isles' victory in South Africa in the summer.

"I'm comfortable with captaincy," he said. "My first thought was to lead by example. When times are hard, players are more likely to follow a consistent lead which generates a certain excitement and now I'm evolving, maturing as a player. I think I'm an aggressive player, you have to be because rugby is an uncompromising game. That doesn't mean breaking the laws, but it does mean having the physical presence and edge to play at the top level."

He has found personal contentment, too: the birth six months ago of a first child to him and Alice, his partner, has brought joy to Dallaglio and his parents, faithful followers of their son's career up and down Britain and on the Continent. That little Ella Francesca will be the light of the family, as well as being named after a dear sister, is understood.

IAN STEWART



Leader of the pack: having taken Wasps to the title, Dallaglio is on the path that could end at England's ultimate honour

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RUGBY UNION

Referees warned to clamp down on violent play

BY MARK SOUSTER

AFTER the unseemly events in Brive, the game finds itself in the dock this weekend. Clubs playing in the Heineken Cup have been given a warning against violent play by Roger Pickering, the tournament director, and referees have been told to implement the letter of the law.

The fact that Brive and Pontypridd are to be dealt with by the board of the European Rugby Cup Ltd on Monday may hinder their ability to concentrate on their respective tasks against Bath and the Scottish Borders today.

Brive, who, like Bath, have won their first two matches, are reluctant visitors to the Recreation Ground for what could prove the defining match in pool C. They will be missing Christophe Lamaison and Philippe Carbonneau, the France internationals who were injured in the postmatch fracas, and they are replaced by Alain Penaud and Sébastien Bonnet. David Venditti, another casualty last week, is on the bench.

For their part Bath, whose two wins have been achieved away from home, have little sympathy for Brive's attempts to have the match postponed. "At the start of this season we had a dozen internationals on the injury list and just got on with it," Phil de Glanville said. "Whoever Brive turn up with they will have strong, skilful players. We regard this as the hardest game you can have at home, hosting the European champions."

After proving his fitness in a reserve game, Ieuan Evans will make his full debut after his move from Llanelli, while Adedayo Adebayo returns on the left wing for his first match since damaging a thigh in England's defeat by Argentina in the second international. Jeremy Guscott is another absentee — he has a stiff back — so Matt Perry plays at centre, allowing Mike Catt to revert to fly half.

Jim Fleming, of Scotland, who sent off two Perpignan players at Newcastle last week, is in charge, which should ensure that strict control is maintained.

Many supporters of Gloucester have cancelled their plans to travel to France to follow their side in the European Conference tie with Béziers today after the kick-off was changed for the fourth time. Others have had hastily to rearrange their return flights after the start of the match was put back to 8.30pm local time.

Pontypridd travel to Kelso with only injured pride to play for having suffered two defeats, as have their opponents. The Welsh champions are refusing to dwell on last Sunday. "Our philosophy is to forget about Brive," Cenydd Thomas, the chief executive, said. "Scotland is not France by a long way. We expect a vigorous game but not the sort of intimidation French sides customarily attempt."

Pool A is wide open after Leicester's shock defeat by Leinster, which, according to Bob Dwyer, the coach, has left the club "flying on one wing". With Joel Stransky out of sorts, Leicester face a daunting match at Toulouse, where they must win at Les Sept-Deniers to retain even a slender chance of progressing.

Toulouse, whom Leicester beat easily in the semi-finals of the competition last season, have won all their five matches so far, even without the injured Emile Ntamack. Leicester will give a late test to Will Greenwood, who hurt a thigh in training. If he is out, Craig Joiner will move to centre with Tom Barlow, 20, coming in on the wing.

Pau, holders of the French Cup, were embroiled in some ugly scenes in their 44-12 victory over Llanelli last week. Today they entertain Caledonia, who are led by Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain. He believes it is incumbent upon referees to assert their authority.

"The Pau game [versus Llanelli] was a farce from start to finish," Wainwright said. "Had the man in charge [Lee Mayne, of Ireland], done the same as Ed Murray did at Brive, the whole thing would probably have calmed down. There is no doubt that players would get the message a hell of a lot quicker if referees stamped their authority more readily, especially now players' livelihoods are at stake."

Tomorrow Cardiff meet Harlequins, who have scored more than 40 points in both their victories so far.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Clubs step up pressure for switch to play-off system

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

MORE Super League clubs are supporting the idea of scrapping the Premiership competition and remodelling the league along Australian lines, with a top-five play-off system to determine the champions.

The end-of-season Premiership, with all 12 Super League teams taking part, has proved unpopular.

Play-offs and a grand final to determine the league champions, as opposed to the side finishing top, could find favour under the new franchise scheme planned for the Super League in 1999.

Brisbane Broncos and Cronulla Sharks meet today in the Australasian Super League final after an elimination series involving the top five clubs that some British sides would like to see imitated. "There would be some real crowd-pullers and the competition would be easier to market," Chris Caisley, the chairman of Rugby League (Europe) said. There is a predictable division of opinion between British-based Australian coaches who are leading the cause of change and several English coaches opposed to the play-off idea.

The Australian format ensures that, for a fifth-placed team to win the competition overall, they would still have to beat the four teams above them in the elimination phase, whereas interest for clubs in the British Premiership disappears after a single defeat.

Shaun McRae, St Helens's Australian coach and the new Great Britain assistant coach, said: "The beauty of the Aussie system is that none of the top three can be eliminated in the first game. They all get a second bite of the cherry. The weakness of our Premiership is that Bradford and London, who finished first and second, have lost one match and their domestic season has finished. I think we should change our ideology."

Matthew Elliott, the Australian coach of Bradford Bulls, would go farther than McRae, who is still in favour of more than one competition. Radically, Elliott would dispose of both the Premiership and Challenge Cup in favour of a single competition.

"We won the championship with several games to spare," he said. "Of course, the players were euphoric at doing so, but it was difficult to focus properly after that. I think there should be one competition with a grand final at Wembley."

Andy Gregory, the Salford Reds coach, is opposed to change. "If you finish top of the league you should get the reward of the championship. You've deserved it."

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

GOLF: THREE COURSES LIKELY TO BE IN RUNNING FOR RIGHT TO STAGE 2005 MATCH AGAINST UNITED STATES

Ireland granted Ryder Cup wish

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Montgomerie follows the progress of his tee-shot at the 15th at the Forest of Arden yesterday. The Scot recorded a 74 for a total of 146, two over par

WE HAD the best of intentions. The second day of the One 2 One British Masters would receive its due weight as a 72-hole tournament that attracted a good field, even though the weather was dire, the atmosphere damp and depressed and the golf hardly sparkling. There would be no mention of the Ryder Cup.

Then it happened once more. The Ryder Cup got in the way again. Not the one that starts at Valderrama in southern Spain in six days, but the one in 2005. Late on Thursday night, Ireland's Sports Minister, Dr Jim McDaid, announced in Dublin that it will be staged in Ireland, after successful negotiations with the Europe Ryder Cup Committee.

The initial reaction is: "About time". It will be the first time that the competition, which started in 1927, has been held on Irish soil. The second reaction is: "Where will it be held?"

The three outstanding candidates are Portmarnock, that magnificent links course north of Dublin, Mount Juliet, the Jack Nicklaus-designed course at Kilkenny in the middle of the country, and the K Club, in Co Kildare, south-west of Dublin, a course designed by Arnold Palmer at a club owned by the Smurfit family.

If the decision were to be based solely on golfing merits, the best choice would be Portmarnock, even though access and egress have traditionally been difficult at a course on a spit of land that juts out into Dublin Bay. Portmarnock staged the Irish Open for many years and huge crowds thronged to it when the Walker Cup was held there six years ago.

It is a first-class example of the kind of seaside courses that are held to be quintessentially typical of golf in these islands. What is the point of bringing an American team over here and asking them to play on an American-style course? They might as well stay at home.

However, money plays such an important part these days. It might have been the case once that tournament sponsors paid for the right to stage a tournament at a club, but now it is the other way round — a club pays a sponsor to bring a tournament to its course. Both Mount Juliet and the K Club have spent huge sums recently attracting events to their courses because of the publicity and subsequent revenue. Mount Juliet was the home of the Irish Open from 1993 to 1996 while the European Open has been held at the K Club for the past three years.

"It's great news it is coming to us," Paul McGinley, a Dublin-born professional who represented Great Britain and Ireland in the 1991 Walker Cup, said. "You'll have every club in the country putting in for it."

"It's not before time," Colin Montgomerie said. "Ireland should have had the Ryder Cup before now. It is a shame it has taken so long." The Belfry, the headquarters of the Professional Golfers' Association, was the venue for the 1985, 1989 and 1993 Ryder Cups and last year it was announced that the 2001 match was going there, too.

At the Irish Open in July, Montgomerie criticised that decision. "I thought we had been there, done that," Montgomerie said then. "I think it was a big surprise to a lot of us that we're going back there."

The Ryder Cup Committee has made some mistakes lately, notably in their its handling of the Miguel Angel Martin affair, but going to Ireland for the match in eight years will bring nothing but pleasure to those who care about the game and its traditions. Now, if only the committee would choose Portmarnock, it would go some way towards recovering from recent mistakes.

Yesterday, at the Forest of Arden, ten miles from The Belfry, the eight players from the Europe Ryder Cup team who were taking part failed to cover themselves in glory. Montgomerie, Costantino Rocca and Ignacio Garrido all looked likely to beat the cut, which was more than Lee Westwood could manage. Westwood's rounds of 79 and 77, 12 over par, were among his worst of the year.

Thomas Bjorn, who is three under par, continues to impress and he is three strokes behind Mark Roe, the leader, who had nine holes of his second round to finish when play was suspended because of darkness last night.

Montgomerie, who played with Bjorn for the first two rounds, said that he resembled Westwood in the promise he showed. "He seems to have a good temperament and that is always a plus," Montgomerie said of the Dane. "He hits the ball a long way and his short game, especially today, was very, very good. He will be a good asset [next week]. He will win some points for us, for sure."

Pearce stays on course to celebrate cup win

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN REFRATH

KAREN PEARCE, an unflappable Australian, continued on her serene, unruffled way in the second round of the Hennessy Cup here at the Golf Und Land-Club Koln, near Cologne, yesterday as almost everyone else struggled. On her 29th birthday — being in Germany, she had celebrated a day early with a wheen of Scots in an Irish pub — Pearce added a solid 71, one under par, to her opening 67 to lead Maria Hjorth, of Sweden, by three strokes.

Of the more established campaigners, Helen Alfredsson, the defending champion, who had a 71, and Alison Nicholas, the US women's Open champion, who returned a 70, were within striking distance, on 143 and 144 respectively.

Laura Davies, who reckoned that a total of five under par — one less than Pearce's halfway score — would be good enough to win the tournament, was on 146, two over, after a 71 that was marred by a disappointing beginning and end. The middle, however, was vintage Davies. Two over par after seven holes, she played the next seven holes in four under.

Unfortunately, she hit a poor two-iron off the tee at the 17th and demonstrated that the rough — lush and clinging — has played its part in making the course a tough test. Davies pulled her second shot into a bunker, splashed out to eight feet and missed the putt.

The world No 3 then drove into the bracken gunge in the trees on the right of the 18th and cursed Chris Johnson, who had done the same thing in the first round, then regaled Davies with the gory details — in breach of the unwritten rule that says players should keep such catastrophes to themselves.

At least the spectators enjoyed the show, with Davies attempting a recovery via a route apparent only to her. The ball hit a tree and ricocheted clear of oblivion: Davies eventually saved her par five by holing the sort of six-footer that has been the bane of her season.

HOCKEY

England confident of taking revenge

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

ENGLAND face a difficult test in the Junior World Cup tournament at Milton Keynes today when they play the holders, Germany, who beat them 4-2 in the four-nation tournament at the same venue last month.

However, England have raised their game considerably since then. Chris Pickett, the manager, said yesterday: "We are fairly confident, with six points in hand. We did not play well against the Germans in the four-nation tournament but we feel we are quite capable of beating them, provided our mental approach is right. The lads feel they can do it."

In the first match yesterday, Germany defeated Japan 3-1 in pool B after a hard struggle. The Germans, who squandered several chances in the first half, conceded a goal in the 32nd minute when Sono scored from a short corner. Reinelt redressed the balance almost on half-time.

Lunau-Mierke converted two short corners in the second half to seal victory for the Germans, who held off a spirited challenge in the closing minutes.

Spain kept their hopes alive in pool A with a 6-1 victory over Cuba, having earlier defeated India 3-2. Pablo Amat scored two of Spain's goals to bring his total to five.

Later in the day, Australia, one of the fancied teams for a place in the semi-finals in pool A, had to work hard for a 3-1 win over Belgium, who had drawn 2-2 with Holland. After a goalless first half, Van Strydonck put the Belgians ahead from a short corner but Elder, a substitute, levelled the score within 30 seconds. Wells gave Australia the lead from a well-struck short corner. Taylor added the third goal eight minutes before the end.

A goal in the last minute from a short corner enabled India to defeat Holland 3-2. Holland were leading 2-1 when India fought back to level the scores, eventually to snatch victory in a thrilling finish.

This victory gives India a fair chance of qualifying for a place in the semi-finals after they had lost 3-2 to Japan.

FOR THE RECORD

AUSTRALIAN RULES

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: Semi-final: St Kilda 15.14 (104) bt North Melbourne 11 7 (73).

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Chicago Cubs 4 St Louis 3; San Francisco 6 Los Angeles 5 (12inns); Florida 8 Philadelphia 2; San Diego 7 Colorado 6; Pittsburgh 12 Houston 3; Cincinnati 6 Montreal 3; Atlanta 11 New York Mets 4
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Anaheim 3 Oakland 7; Boston 3 Toronto 2; Baltimore 4 Milwaukee 3, New York Yankees 7 Detroit 9 (11inns); Kansas City 3 Chicago White Sox 9; Minnesota 1 Cleveland 4, Texas 3 Seattle 6.

BASKETBALL

EUROLEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: CSKA Moscow 90 Real Madrid 77. Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) 78 Limoges (Fr) 62; Efes Pilsen Istanbul (Tur) 67 Olympiakos (Gr) 70. Group B: Split (Cro) 72 Turk Telecom Ankara (Tur) 56; Estudiantes (Sp) 58 Benetton Treviso (It); Porto (Por) 71 PAOK Salonika (Gr) 88. Group C: Pau-Orthez (Fr) 94 Barcelona 95 (aet), Partizan Belgrade 95 Ulker Istanbul 86. Group D: Teamsystem Bologna (It) 80 Alba Berlin (Ger) 73; Cibona Zagreb (Cro) 78 Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) 72.
MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: Pool matches: Flintshire 79 Liverpool 66; Leicester 51 Nottingham 75

CRICKET

Sahara Cup

India v Pakistan

TORONTO (Pakistan won toss): India beat Pakistan by 34 runs

INDIA

S C Ganguly c Saeed b Salim	2
†S S Karim c Moin b Aqib	2
R S Dravid c Saeed b Salim	25
*S R Tendulkar c Moin b Mohammad	0
M Azharuddin c Azhar b Saqlain	67
A D Jadeja c Moin b Mohammad	20
R R Singh not out	32
A P Kuruvilla not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 12, w 19, nb 1)	33
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	182

N Kulkarni, D Mohanty and H S Sodhi did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-12, 2-12, 3-23, 4-91, 5-135, 6-164.

BOWLING: Aqib Javed 10-4-17-1, Azhar Mahmood 9-0-30-1; Mohammad Akram 10-0-28-2; Shahid Afridi 5-0-20-0; Salim Malik 6-1-26-1, Saqlain Mushtaq 10-0-48-1

PAKISTAN

Saeed Anwar c Dravid b Mohanty	22
Shahid Afridi c Tendulkar b Kuruvilla	44
*Ramiz Raja c Ganguly b Sodhi	11
Ijaz Ahmed c sub b Ganguly	13
Salim Malik c Tendulkar b Ganguly	6
Hasan Raza c Jadeja b Ganguly	0
†Moin Khan c Singh b Ganguly	7
Saqlain Mushtaq c Mohanty b Kuruvila	11
Azhar Mahmood c Karim b Mohanty	6
Aqib Javed c Kuruvila b Ganguly	11
Mohammed Akram not out	2
Extras (lb 6, w 4, nb 5)	15
Total (36.5 overs)	148

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-52, 2-79, 3-87, 4-103, 5-103, 6-116, 7-118, 8-126, 9-141

BOWLING: Kuruvila 8.5-1-26-2, Mohanty 8-0-43-2; Sodhi 5-0-41-1, Ganguly 10-0-16-5, Singh 5-1-16-0.

India win series 3-0

Umpires: R E Koertsen (South Africa) and S G Randell (Australia)

CROQUET

SOUTHWICK: European championship: Block A: R Fulford (Eng) bt T Brown (Ire) +11, Fulford bt N Eatough (Switz) +2; J Surgenor (Scot) bt Brown +3; Eatough bt Surgenor +18, Fulford bt Surgenor +2, Eatough bt Brown +21. Block B: S Mulliner (Eng) bt J Swabey (Ire) +26tp; Mulliner bt F de Ansorena (Sp) +26; Mulliner bt P DiPetra (It) +16tp. De Ansorena bt Swabey +16; DiPetra bt Swabey +11. DiPetra bt De Ansorena +22. Block C: I Burridge (Wales) bt P Payne (Switz) +19tp, S Williams (Ire) bt Burridge +22tp, Williams bt Payne +25tp, Williams bt P Duckworth (Jersey) +7tp; Duckworth bt Payne +16; Duckworth bt Burridge +10. Block D: C Irwin (Eng) bt P Archer (Guernsey) +26, C von Schmeider (Ire) bt Irwin +22tp, Von Schmeider bt Archer +25; M Burrow (Jersey) bt Irwin +5, M Burrow (Jersey) bt Archer +26tp, Burrow bt Von Schmeider +22tp. First round: Fulford bt Archer +26sxp; DiPetra bt Burridge +5; Burrow bt Payne +15, Irwin bt Duckworth +26, Williams bt Swabey +25, Von Schmeider bt Surgenor +15tp, Ansorena bt Eatough +8

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Thirteenth stage (Ponferrada to Valgrande Pajares, 196km) 1, P Tonkov (Russ, Mapei) 5hr 10min 02sec; 2, J M Jimenez (Sp, Banesto) at 32sec, 3, L Dufaux (Switz, Lotus) at 53, 4, Y Ledanois (Fr, GAN), 5, F Escartin (Sp, Kelme) both same time

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round, first leg: Chelsea 2 Slovan Bratislava 0; Nice 3 Kilmarnock 1, FC Zagreb (Cro) 3 Tromso (Nor) 2, AEK Athens 5 Dinaburg Daugavpils (Lat) 0, Apoel Nicosia (Cyprus) 0 Sturm Graz (Austria) 1; FC Copenhagen 3 Ararat Erevan (Arm) 0, AIK Solna (Swe) 0 Primorje (Slovenia) 1, Belshina Bobruisk (Bela) 1 Lokomotiv Moscow 2, Kocaelispor (Tur) 2 National Bucuresti 0; Slavia Prague 4 Lucerne (Switz) 2, Germinal Ekeren (Bel) 3 Red Star Belgrade (Yug) 2, IB Vestmannaeyjar (Ice) 1 VfB Stuttgart 3, Hapoel Beersheba (Isr) 1 Roda (Holl) 4; Vicenza (It) 2 Legia Warsaw (Pol) 0, Real Betis (Sp) 2 BVSC Budapest 0, Boavista (Por) 2 Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 3.
CAIRO: World under-17 championship, Semi-finals: Brazil 4 Germany 0, Ghana 2 Spain 1
LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Dundalk 2 Bohemians 2
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Ipswich 2 Arsenal 6, Norwich 1 Oxford Utd 1, Queens Park Rangers 3 Tottenham 0
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Everton 2 Birmingham 1. Cup: Group three: Walsall 1 Notts County 0
FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round: Somersham 1 Tamworth 0, Stanway 1 Southend Manor 0, Southwick 0 Sittingbourne 5, Chipstead 5 Margate 1; Folkestone Invicta 0 Three Bridges 2; Merstham 4 Whyteleafe 2, Fisher 4 Saltdean 2; Romsey 0 Fareham 3, Northampton Spencer 0 Bromsgrove 2, Banstead 1 Bromley 2
WORLD CUP: Asian qualifying zone: Final round: Group A: Iran 1 Saudi Arabia 1 (in Tehran); Qatar 0 Kuwait 2 (in Doha). Group B: United Arab Emirates 0 Japan 0 (in Abu Dhabi)
ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Velez 0 Boca 0; Estudiantes 3 Gimnasia y Tiro 1, Lanus 1 Ferro 3, Colon 2 Huracan 1, Independiente 2 Racing 0; San Lorenzo 3 Union 2, Newell's 0 Platense 0, Argentinos Jrs 1 Rosario Central 1; Gimnasia Jujuy 0 Gimnasia La Plata 1, River Plate 3 Espanol 0
BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Palmeiras 1 Bahia 1, Atletico Mineiro 1 Fluminense 0

GOLF

FOREST OF ARDEN: One 2 One British Masters: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated, round to be completed this morning): 139: P Price 71, 68, R Russell 64, 75. 141: T Bjorn (Den) 69, 72, R Goosen (SA) 72, 69. 142: D Cole (Aus) 72, 70; D Chopra (Swe) 67, 75, M James 71, 71; M Jonzon (Swe) 70, 72; J Townsend (US) 71, 71. 143: R Boxall 71, 72. 144: P Quirici (Switz) 70, 74, J van de Velde (Fr) 73, 71; R Claydon 68, 76, S Luña (Sp) 72, 72. 145: M Anglert (Swe) 73, 72; T Gogele (Ger) 73, 72, I Garbutt 73, 72. 146: P Baker 74, 72, R Coles 72, 74, P Mitchell 75, 71, I Garrido (Sp) 76, 70; C Montgomerie 72, 74. C Rocca (It) 75, 71, E Darcy 70, 76; A Cabrera (Arg) 71, 75; C Mason 70, 76. 147: D Cooper 74, 73; I Pyman 70, 77; K Vainola (Fin) 74, 73, S Grappasonni (It) 73, 74, B Lane 73, 74, G Clark 74, 73, P Fulke (Swe) 71, 76. 148: V Phillips 76, 72, C Watts 75, 73; D Carter 74, 74, R McFarlane 75, 73
REFRATH, Cologne: American Express Hennessy Cup: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated). 138: K Pearce (Aus) 67, 71. 141: M Hjorth (Swe) 67, 74. 143: H Alfredsson (Swe) 72, 71. 144: A Nicholas 74, 70; N Fink (Austria) 72, 72. 145: K Marshall 75, 70, T Fischer (Ger) 74, 71; S Prosser 73, 72; W Dicks 72, 73, J Mills (Aus) 71, 74. 146: P Siemes (Swe) 76, 70; M Koch (Ger) 75, 71; P Meunier Lebouc (Fr) 75, 71; L Davies 75, 71; F Dassu (It) 73, 73, S Carbon (Aus) 72, 74, D Reid 71, 75, L Hackney 71, 75. 147: C Louw (SA) 75, 72; V Stensrud (Nor) 74, 73. 148: R Carriedo (Sp) 75, 73; A-M Knight (Aus) 74, 74, M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 74, 74; A Berg 73, 75, S Dallongeville (Fr) 73, 75, C Schmitt (Fr) 72, 76. 149: A Gottmo (Swe) 76, 73, F Pike (Aus) 75, 74, J Leary (Aus) 74, 75, H Wadsworth 73, 76
SAN ANTONIO: Texas Open: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated) 64: G Sauers. 65: M Brisky. 66: P Goydos, D Waldorf. 67: K Fergus, B Geiberger, S Jones, J Gallagher Jr, L Roberts, T Tyner. 68: S Dunlap, F H Horgan III, S McCarron, M Sullivan, D A Weibring, D Toms, K Green, B Fabel, S Simpson, C Parry (Aus), L Mattiace, S Lowery, S Hart, K Comer, H Kase (Japan), B Quigley
CANTON, Massachusetts: LPGA Welch's championship: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated) 67: L Neumann (Swe), N Harvey (Can). 68: C Walker, V Skinner, D Pepper, C Johnston-Forbes, C Kerr. 69: A Miller, M Mallon, M Mackall, M Estill, B Burton, E Wicoff, K Webb (Aus), S Waugh (Aus), A Ridgway, V Odegard, W Doolan, L Brower. British scores: 73: S Maynor. 74: H Dobson. 75: K Davies. 76: C Matthew

HOCKEY

MILTON KEYNES: Men's junior World Cup: Pool A: Cuba 1 Spain 6, Australia 3 Belgium 1. Pool B: Germany 3 Japan 1; Pakistan 3 Argentina 3

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Basingstoke Bison 2 Nottingham Panthers 2

MOTOR RALLYING

RALLY OF INDONESIA: Leading positions (after eight stages). 1, C McRae (GB, Subaru Impreza) 1hr 38min 44sec. 2, T Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi Lancer) at 35sec 3, J Kankkunen (Fin, Ford Escort) at 45. 4, C Sainz (Sp, Ford Escort) at 1min 06sec; 5, K Eriksson (Swe, Subaru Impreza) at 1 25; 6 R Burns (GB, Mitsubishi Carisma) at 1 56

SNOOKER

BEIJING: International challenge: Semi-finals: J White (Eng) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-0. S Davis (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 6-1

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Sheffield 50 Isle of Wight 40

SQUASH

CHICAGO: Women's tournament: Semi-finals: S Wright (Eng) bt C Venter (SA) 9-4, 9-3, 9-1. F Geaves (Eng) bt T Weeks (Aus) 9-3, 9-3, 9-6. Final, Wright bt Geaves 8-10, 1-9, 10-8, 9-0, 9-5.

TENNIS

TOKYO. Women's tournament: Quarter-finals: A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt Li Fang (China) 6-3, 7-5; N Basuki (Indo) bt K Po (US) 7-5, 6-3. M Seles (US) bt N Zvereva (Bela) 6-1, 6-0, N Sawamatsu (Japan) bt C Martinez (Sp) 7-6, 6-4

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12/1	My Melody Parkes	33/1	Albert The Bear
16/1	Elfland	33/1	Persian Fayre
16/1	Passion For Life	33/1	Selhurstpark Flyer
16/1	Sharp Hat	40/1	Azizzi
16/1	Wildwood Flower	40/1	Nigrasine
20/1	Emerging Market	40/1	Superior Premium
20/1	Proud Native	40/1	Ziggy's Dancer
20/1	Tedburrow	50/1	Zuhair
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Support of players encourages MacLaurin to bat on

Alan Lee finds the ECB chairman determined to pursue his vision for the county game

Lord MacLaurin: crusade

FOUR days ago, the elected leader of English cricket awoke feeling angry and disillusioned over the rejection of his vision for the game. He was inclined to speak out and stand down. Yesterday, warmed by the sunshine of Spain and the support of this country's cricketers, Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth pledged to continue his crusade.

He will not resign as chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), but nor will he retract his support for the two-division championship proposal that the counties turned down at Lord's on Monday. He also had a warning yesterday for those who believe the game can remain unaltered, indicating that the annual hand-out on which most counties survive cannot be guaranteed.

Lord MacLaurin had gone to Spain, fulfilling his duties on the Ryder Cup Committee, uncertain if he should remain in the game that had coveted and then rebuffed him. He was upset, not so much by the outcome of the First Class Forum (FCF) meeting, but by its mood. "I did feel very angry afterwards," he admitted. "There was a sense that I had been wasting my time. But after a few days to think things through, I have no regrets about the way I conducted it and I am prepared to see out my term, so long as the counties still want me."

Whether Lord MacLaurin, the most progressive of recent chairmen, stands for re-election late next year remains unclear. On Tuesday he was against the idea, but I believe telephone conversations with officers of the Professional Cricketers Association have softened his resolve. The players' support for Lord MacLaurin, and for his views, is increasingly militant.

Lord MacLaurin's diplomacy prevented him revealing details of the meeting on Monday, but I understand he was upset by certain personal comments and openly dismayed by the display of self-interest by many counties.

The chairman, it appears, opposed the inclusion among the options of an unchanged championship with a one-day event as a reward for the top eight. This was the scheme backed by David Morgan, the chairman of the FCF, and embraced by the counties. Lord MacLaurin described the incentive scheme as "a bit of a nonsense".

Extraordinarily, he has no vote and no automatic input within the FCF. "It may seem strange, but that is the constitution," he said. "I would feel worse about it if I had been in a voting position and been defeated. I would also add that I had not made a single phone call to a chairman to lobby support."

Intensive lobbying did go on, however, but MacLaurin bridled at a suggestion that he contributed to the reactionary cause by broadcasting his own preference. "It would have been a dereliction of duty if I had not done so," he said. "I could have sat there and said nothing. But I was not just expressing my own favourite option, I was giving the views of the majority.

"In the months of work that went into this project, all our market research favoured a two-division championship. It was overwhelming. The only people who came out against it were the county chairmen. That is their prerogative and they took a democratic decision, but it was my responsibility to give the other side. I don't think it was a mistake and I would do exactly the same thing again. I had to present the case, because when I took this job the chairmen had asked me to chart the way forward. I did that and I believe I have fulfilled my obligations."

Lord MacLaurin, whose support for a split championship is shared privately by the paid executives at the ECB, may despair of the parochialism that retards the game, but he is determined not to be defeated by it.

"The counties must realise that we have a serious problem. Their £1 million a year cannot be guaranteed if we have a game which is no longer attractive to television. County membership is down. Viewing figures are down. The future is uncertain and we have to do something to prevent a terminal decline.

"We've made a start. I'm encouraged by the support of the players and I am going to continue supporting two divisions because, in cricketing and commercial terms, it is so obviously the right course."

Kent hopes hard hit by Stewart

By Simon Wilde

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Surrey, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 192 runs ahead of Kent

HOW things can change in the space of 24 hours. As dusk descended over the St Lawrence ground on Thursday, Kent, championship challengers, were in a perplexed state. They had taken an apparently unbreakable hold on their game with Surrey, but had done so on a pitch so much more sporting than intended that they awaited with trepidation an impending inquiry into its condition.

By last night, things were rather different, though scarcely less disquieting for them. Fears of a title-shattering withdrawal of points had all but disappeared but the principal means of their salvation swiftly became their chief problem.

The pitch that had seamed and bounced extravagantly on the first day was unexpectedly calm yesterday and on a cooler, cloudier day the ball refused to swing as it had on the first, hazy morning. The end result was that Kent spent a long and fruitless afternoon in the field as Darren Bicknell and Alec Stewart posted a breezy third-wicket stand of 219 in 44 overs.

Stewart, whose first task was to prevent a hat-trick by Mark Ealham, seized on the changed situation brilliantly, going on the attack so remorselessly that Kent soon surrendered any semblance of control and were left to rue the short boundaries and the sameness of their all-seam attack. The potential enormity of their fourth-innings task can have only added to their misgivings.

The extent of concern at possible action over the pitch on which 19 wickets fell on Thursday was apparent in the anxious expression on the face of Steve Marsh, the Kent captain, as Harry Brind, the England and Wales Cricket Board inspector of pitches, surveyed the square, amid much ceremony, before play began.

A three-man delegation — led by John Carr, the board's cricket operations manager — followed in his wake but opted to watch more of the game and delay their decision until either today or tomorrow, but unless the conditions undergo an even greater transformation punishment seems most unlikely.

After the remainder of Kent's innings trespassed only nine balls into the day, Butcher and Bicknell put on 69 for Surrey's first wicket and it was a surprise when Ealham struck twice shortly before lunch. Butcher offered a low return catch and Ratcliffe, whose first innings had encompassed only two balls, did less well second time around, courtesy of a magnificent catch by Ward at second slip. Surrey reached the interval on 75 for two, 21 in arrears, and with rain falling at Taunton Kent's ambitions burned bright.

But Stewart, sensing that timidity could be fatal, swiftly altered the game's landscape with a stream of boundaries in the hour after lunch, scoring 49 of the 69 runs added. He saw off each frontline bowler in turn, so that Marsh was obliged to turn to Wells's innocuous medium-pace, but the tempo only increased as Bicknell began to feed off Stewart's optimism.

Stewart was the first to his hundred — off only 90 balls — with three whipped fours in a row through mid-wicket, but in the circumstances Bicknell's effort was no less of an achievement. He has endured a soul-searching summer, playing more for the second XI than the first, but he may now have secured himself another contract, something that had been in serious doubt.

The mood had changed so much that when the final session began in poor light Surrey were keen to stay on, but when Phillips then knocked back Bicknell's off stump, after he had made 130, and flummoxed Brown with his next delivery, they thought better of it.

Bicknell, perfectly balanced, flicks a short ball for four at Canterbury yesterday

Hick leads assault on Hampshire and history

By John Thicknesse

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Worcestershire have scored 538 for two wickets against Hampshire

GRAEME HICK and Tom Moody, having added an unfinished 438, were within 30 runs of establishing a world record for the third wicket when rain wiped out the last two sessions yesterday.

Since victory over Hampshire might lift Worcestershire three places to third in the championship, enriching them by an extra £7,000 in prize-money, Moody may now have to declare and the record of 467, set by Andrew Jones and Martin Crowe for New Zealand against Sri Lanka at Wellington in 1990-91, may survive.

Not that the partners, who finished on 303 and 180 respectively, went short of records in their chanceless 400-minute stand. Among the most notable to fall were the county championship third-wicket best, previously 424 unfinished between Bill Edrich and Denis Compton for Middlesex against Somerset in 1948 — one of only six stands of 400-plus in county cricket since the war — and Worcestershire's highest for any wicket, previously 393, which had stood since 1909.

For Hick, there was also the highest score against Hampshire, which since 1920 had been held by Percy Holmes, with 302 not out for Yorkshire at Portsmouth. Hick's was the first 300 at Southampton.

Though an earlier shower had trimmed 20 minutes from the morning, there was as much interest in the 29 overs that survived as in the whole of the first day. Despite having a 400 in his CV — 405 not out against Somerset in 1988 — Hick had set his heart on turning his overnight 253 into 300, giving him a three-figure entry at four levels. Bradman and Ponsford are the only members of that club.

The unexpected factor was that, as the target neared, Hick visibly grew tense. On Thursday, in six hours, he was in trouble only once. Yesterday, having been rapped on the pads by Thomas Hansen, the Danish medium-pace left-arm bowler, Hick, on 271, was guilty of a mis-hit for the first time. Attempting to pull Simon Francis, he got a top edge that flew high enough for Aymes, the wicketkeeper, to pursue hard for 20 yards before giving up the chase, the ball careering over the fine-leg boundary on the second bounce.

Finally, on 299, when he tried to turn Stephenson into the leg side, Hick was into the stroke early and nervously miscued. There was no chance of a catch to Laney at mid-wicket, but, seeing Hick on edge, Stephenson brought up White from the square leg boundary to form a leg-side inner ring. A more practiced bowler might have kept the pressure up with a couple of maidens. Instead, next ball, Stephenson dropped short on middle and leg, and Hick gratefully eased it through the gap for two.

Sussex offered little comfort

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 374 runs behind Nottinghamshire

YOU HAVE to take your hat off to Sussex for trying (Jack Bailey writes). Off the field they are in there pitching for the likes of Shane Warne and Dave Gilbert and, through Robin Marlar, their chairman, they stand up in the corridors of power for what they think is right for the less well-off in county cricket.

On the field, they are trying, too, although sheer endeavour is increasingly unlikely to prevent them from finishing with the dreaded wooden spoon. To stand any chance of avoiding it, they must win this match, but Nottinghamshire have not been sympathetic.

Yesterday, they batted on until 45 minutes after lunch before declaring. By then, Afzaal, their 19-year-old left-handed batsman, had just fallen to Justin Bates when 20 runs short of his maiden century, the visitors had ground their way to 454 and the skies were already filling in with dark clouds.

There was time enough, though, for Sussex to lose Taylor and Peirce in reducing the deficit by 80 runs in the 23 overs the weather allowed and for Taylor to pass 1,000 runs for the season before falling to the impressive Andy Oram — and for the name Bates to appear once more on the scoresheet as a wicket-taker. This time, though, it was Richard Bates, like his Sussex namesake an off spinner, who accounted for Peirce, caught at short mid-off.

On a pitch that had lost much of its pace, the slow bowlers proved difficult to get away and Justin Bates was rewarded with the first five-wicket haul of his career as Franks, Evans and, finally, Afzaal fell to mistimed strokes.

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Shah looks sure amid the gloom

By Barney Spender

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Middlesex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 97 runs behind Essex

AFTER the sunshine and intrigue of the opening day, reality bit yesterday. The stoic Chelmsford crowd huddled out of the rain all morning and then watched 52 overs of less-than-gripping cricket.

A win for Middlesex could enable them to finish third in the championship, but there was little to suggest that they were aware of that as they edged their way to 128 for six. David Nash and James Hewitt then added 46 in the gathering gloom against the spin of Such and Grayson, but when Ilott was recalled to break the stand, they accepted the offer of the light, depriving the day of a further 11 overs.

Ilott had induced Ramprakash to pop up a catch to short leg in the second over of the day and he ended Gatting's streaky innings with a ball that appeared to nip back through the gate. Ashley Cowan, who is to have an exploratory operation on his right shoulder next week, bowled a couple of fine spells and removed Johnson, the nightwatchman.

The brightest moments in the day came from Owais Shah who, perhaps unshackled by his maiden century in the previous game against Nottinghamshire, played with a certain sureness and freedom on a pitch assisting the seamers. He enjoyed some luck, though, being missed at second slip by Stuart Law and at mid-off by Such before the latter bowled him for 37.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Yorkshire

DERBY (second day of four): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 237 runs behind Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 267 (R J Blakey 76, D Byas 56; P A J DeFreitas 4 for 74)

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

K J Barnett not out	16
†K M Krikken c Blakey b Silverwood	6
T A Tweats not out	2
Extras (b 2, lb 4)	6
Total (1 wkt, 12 overs)	30

T Smith, B J Spendlove, M E Cassar, V P Clarke, *P A J DeFreitas, P Aldred, S J Lacey and A J Harris to bat

FALL OF WICKET. 1-13

BOWLING: Silverwood 6-2-7-1; Hutchison 6-2-17-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 4 Yorkshire 2.

Umpires, A Clarkson and D J Constant.

Essex v Middlesex

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Middlesex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 97 runs behind Essex

ESSEX: First Innings 271 (A P Cowan 77, S G Law 63; T F Bloomfield 5 for 77).

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

*M R Ramprakash c Robinson b Ilott	2
P N Weekes lbw b D R Law	26
R L Johnson c Hyam b Cowan	15
M W Gatting b Ilott	14
O A Shah b Such	37
D C Nash not out	34
†K R Brown c Irani b Such	8
J P Hewitt not out	21
Extras (b 7, lb 8, nb 2)	17
Total (6 wkts, 64 overs)	174

T F Bloomfield, A R C Fraser and P C R Tufnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-34, 3-50, 4-86, 5-112, 6-128.

BOWLING: Ilott 16-7-34-2; Cowan 17-4-60-1; D R Law 9-5-15-1; S G Law 5-4-1-0; Such 11-1-38-2; Grayson 6-1-11-0

Bonus points: Essex 4 Middlesex 4.

Umpires: N T Plews and R Palmer.

Hampshire v Worcestershire

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four). Worcestershire have scored 538 for two wickets against Hampshire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

W P C Weston c Hayden b Renshaw	4
K R Spiring lbw b Udal	42
G A Hick not out	303
*T M Moody not out	180
Extras (b 3, lb 4, w 2)	9
Total (2 wkts)	538

Score at 120 overs: 470-2.

G R Haynes, D A Leatherdale, R J Chapman, †S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth and A Sheriyar to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-20, 2-100

BOWLING: Renshaw 29-3-106-1; Francis 19-1-97-0; Hansen 24-10-61-0; Udal 31-4-125-1; Stephenson 18-1-78-0; Hayden 3-0-12-0; Whitaker 9-1-42-0; White 3-0-12-0.

HAMPSHIRE: J S Laney, M L Hayden, G W White, P R Whitaker, W S Kendall, *J P Stephenson, †A N Aymes, S D Udal, S J Renshaw, T M Hansen, S R G Francis.

Bonus points: Hampshire 0 Worcestershire 4.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and R Julian.

Kent v Surrey

CANTERBURY (second day of four). Surrey, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 192 runs ahead of Kent

SURREY: First Innings 124 (J B D Thompson 4 for 33).

Second Innings

D J Bicknell b Phillips	130
M A Butcher c and b Ealham	30
J D Ratcliffe c Ward b Ealham	0
*†A J Stewart not out	122
A D Brown not out	0
Extras (lb 6)	6
Total (3 wkts)	288

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-69, 2-69, 3-288

BOWLING: Igglesden 16-2-73-0; Thompson 12-1-67-0; Ealham 12-2-39-2; Fleming 14-1-57-0; Phillips 8.5-2-35-1; Wells 2-0-11-0.

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton c Butcher b Lewis	0
E T Smith lbw b Benjamin	26
T R Ward c Shahid b Hollioake	14
A P Wells c Lewis b Butcher	48
G R Cowdrey c Salisbury b Butcher	7
M A Ealham c Butcher b Hollioake	52
M V Fleming lbw b Hollioake	0
*†S A Marsh c Hollioake b Amin	16
B J Phillips not out	22
J B D Thompson c Stewart b Butcher	0
A P Igglesden c and b Hollioake	1
Extras (b 1, lb 3, nb 30)	34
Total (74.2 overs)	220

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-27, 3-87, 4-110, 5-125, 6-126, 7-162, 8-213, 9-213

BOWLING: Lewis 8-0-54-1, Hollioake 18.2-5-54-4; Benjamin 17-3-45-1; Butcher 16-6-24-3; Ratcliffe 3-0-18-0; Amin 12-5-21-1

Bonus points: Kent 5 Surrey 4.

Umpires: T E Jesty and A G T Whitehead

Somerset v Glamorgan

TAUNTON (second day of four): Glamorgan, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 101 runs ahead of Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings 252 (P D Bowler 63, M N Lathwell 62; Waqar Younis 4 for 41).

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James lbw b Caddick	8
H Morris not out	136
A Dale c Bowler b Caddick	8
*M P Maynard c Bowler b Shine	142
P A Cottey c Bowler b Shine	13
R D B Croft not out	18
Extras (lb 4, w 12, nb 12)	28
Total (4 wkts, 68 overs)	353

†A D Shaw, S D Thomas, Waqar Younis, S L Watkin and D A Cosker to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-42, 3-277, 4-283

BOWLING: Caddick 26-5-108-2; Shine 15-3-66-2; Rose 18-2-108-0; Trott 5-0-39-0; Burns 4-0-28-0

Bonus points. Somerset 3 Glamorgan 8

Umpires: G Sharp and P Willey.

Sussex v Nottinghamshire

HOVE (second day of four): Sussex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 374 runs behind Nottinghamshire

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman b Kirtley	0
R T Robinson c Peirce b Bates	63
G E Welton lbw b Kirtley	95
*P Johnson c Moores b Kirtley	74
P R Pollard lbw b Jarvis	43
U Afzaal c Peirce b Bates	80
†W M Noon c and b Bates	25
P J Franks c Peirce b Bates	27
K P Evans c Kirtley b Bates	8
R T Bates not out	0
Extras (lb 10, w 2, nb 27)	39
Total (9 wkts dec)	454

Score at 120 overs: 383-6

A R Oram did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-0, 2-169, 3-189, 4-287, 5-327, 6-383, 7-445, 8-453, 9-454

BOWLING: Kirtley 30-4-115-3, Jarvis 19-3-67-1; Robinson 29-2-85-0; Martin-Jenkins 14-3-49-0, Bates 42.4-14-89-5; K Newell 8-1-21-0; Carpenter 9-4-18-0.

SUSSEX: First Innings

M T E Peirce c sub b Bates	15
N R Taylor lbw b Oram	18
M Newell not out	30
K Newell not out	0
Extras (lb 1, nb 16)	17
Total (2 wkts, 23 overs)	80

*†P Moores, J R Carpenter, R S C Martin-Jenkins, P W Jarvis, J J Bates, M A Robinson and R J Kirtley to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-77.

BOWLING: Oram 8-3-15-1, Franks 6-0-43-0; Evans 5-0-16-0, Bates 2-1-5-1

Bonus points: Sussex 2 Nottinghamshire 4

Umpires: M J Kitchen and K E Palmer

NO PLAY YESTERDAY (second day of four): Bristol: Gloucestershire 262 (S Young 100; I D Austin 4 for 44); Lancashire 24 for 2. Leicester: Leicestershire 241 (J J Whitaker 93; S J E Brown 5 for 67, M M Betts 4 for 68); Durham 66 for 4. Edgbaston: Northamptonshire 215 for 5 (A J Swann 73 not out, R R Montgomerie 58) v Warwickshire.

First Test match

Zimbabwe v New Zealand

HARARE (second day of five): New Zealand, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 207 runs behind Zimbabwe

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G J Rennie c Fleming b Cairns	23
G W Flower c Parore b Cairns	104
†A Flower c Spearman b Cairns	8
G J Whittall c Fleming b O'Connor	33
*A D R Campbell c Pocock b Astle	18
D L Houghton lbw b Davis	23
P A Strang c Fleming b Davis	42
B C Strang lbw b Cairns	1
H H Streak c Fleming b Cairns	0
J A Rennie c Fleming b Davis	22
A G Huckle not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 4, nb 15)	24
Total	298

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-47, 2-57, 3-117, 4-144, 5-214, 6-244, 7-244, 8-295, 9-298.

BOWLING: O'Connor 26-1-104-1; Davis 20-0-57-3, Cairns 28.1-9-50-5; Astle 23-12-40-1; Vettori 4-0-14-0; Harris 13-5-27-0

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

C M Spearman c Campbell b B Strang	23
B A Pocock run out	21
M J Horne c Whittall b Streak	24
*S P Fleming not out	20
N J Astle not out	2
Extras (lb 1)	1
Total (3 wkts)	91

C L Cairns, †A C Parore, C Z Harris, D L Vettori, S B O'Connor and H T Davis to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-44, 3-89.

BOWLING: Streak 11-0-24-1, J Rennie 8-1-32-0, B Strang 10-4-18-1, P Strang 7-1-16-0

Umpires: B C Cooray (Sri Lanka) and I T Robinson (Zimbabwe)

Warne gets all-clear to join county

By Richard Hobson

SHANE WARNE will not be barred from playing county cricket next season by the Australia Cricket Board (ACB). The ACB, however, said yesterday it would rather the leg spinner used the gap in an intensive international schedule to rest. Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Sussex, the three counties to have made offers, each said that they expected a decision from Warne next week.

Warne, like all top Australia players, is contracted to the ACB. Two years ago he was refused permission to take up a post with Northamptonshire, but the softer stance takes into account his "wonderful" contribution to the national side.

Denis Rogers, the ACB chairman, said: "We felt it was not right for us to use an option available to us to withhold our approval — we felt that would be a very, very ordinary thing to do and we are not going to stand in his way. Only Shane knows what he can stand up to. He has been offered the captaincy [by Sussex] and it is an opportunity for him. It should not be us who stand in his way."

Nottinghamshire believe they have emerged as favourites for Warne's signature. "I think he would prefer to be at a Test-match ground," Alan Ormrod, the Nottinghamshire cricket manager, said.

Warne, who has had problems with his shoulder and spinning finger, would have to pass an ACB medical examination before playing in England. Overseas tours by Australia may clash with the start and end of the English season.

No respite for unlucky Krikken

DERBY (second day of four): Derbyshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 237 runs behind Yorkshire

AFTER the glorious first-day glow of early autumn, yesterday dawned dull and wet (Michael Henderson writes). The conditions eased slightly to allow 45 minutes of cricket in the afternoon but the light, which was never good, became intolerable and, when the umpires called play off for the day at 4.45pm, there was general relief.

In the 11.3 overs that Yorkshire got in they took the wicket of Krikken, the makeshift opener, whose intended hook at Silverwood carried off his glove as far as Blakey. The wicketkeeper held it at the second attempt as he ran backwards and it was a good effort, the sort that stumpers do not always reach.

As a wicketkeeper himself Krikken would have recognised the quality of the catch. Perhaps Derbyshire's wretched season counted against him when the touring teams were selected, after he was again overlooked for a place on the A tour.

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New scoring system expected to increase excitement and produce closer finish next May

Whitbread crews buoyed up for best race yet

BY EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Whitbread round-the-world race begins on the Solent tomorrow and, although it is going to be with us for a long time — it returns to Southampton at the end of May — it promises be the most exciting of the six to date.

The key difference this time is that it is a one-class contest. All ten crews are sailing the fast, physical and, at times, dangerous Whitbread 60s, so there will be no doubting who the overall winner is. In addition, this Whitbread is the first professional round-the-world race to abandon elapsed-time scoring in favour of points-per-leg.

Whereas before, bad or good luck in the Doldrums on the first leg often settled the issue, this time the overall situation may remain tight until the sprint leg from La Rochelle to Southampton. The harder Southern Ocean legs are worth more points, but at the end of every leg, crews need only finish first by a whisker, not by hours or days, to secure maximum points.

The points system will influence tactics, with the top skippers much less likely to take risks and more inclined to hold back when in the lead, rather than pushing on and breaking the boat. The winner is likely to be the boat that consistently compiles the points, while preserving equipment and crew. A dismasting or even loss of key sails on an important leg could still be enough to lose the race.

There are more stops than before. This makes the event long-winded but the positive effect is to make it into a regatta of nine separate races, rather than the traditional round-the-world slog. The finishes and starts will put a premium on close-quarter boat-handling and the skills of the professional crews should be tested to the limits.

Ian Bailey-Willmot, the race director, had hoped that about 18 boats would start, but the field has steadily dwindled. The high development costs have put some sponsors off, while others were confused by red herrings such as the Grand Mistral race. However, the ten boats that make up the field are of high quality and there is enough depth to make for an absorbing contest.

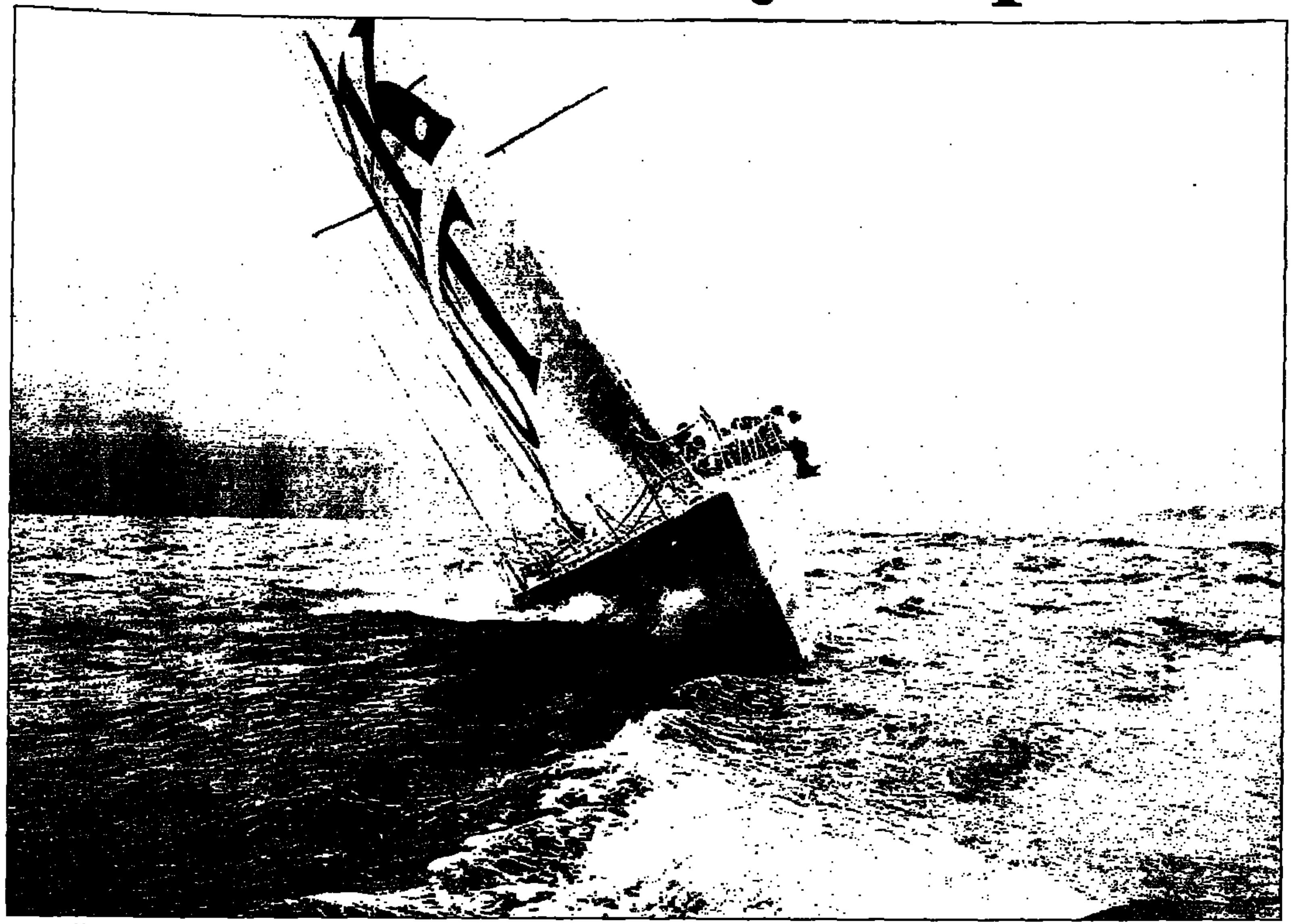
The so-called "box rule" which defines the limits of the Whitbread 60 class, has given way in practice to a "Bruce Farr rule". The American-based New Zealand designer has drawn eight of the ten boats. Only two are identical and the accepted dockside wisdom is that, overall, the differences are minor and unlikely to be decisive.

More critical is likely to be sail selection and management, with those syndicates that have done most work in these areas likely to have a faster option in all conditions. Changing gear on W60s is an art and the boats are sensitive to wrong sail combinations.

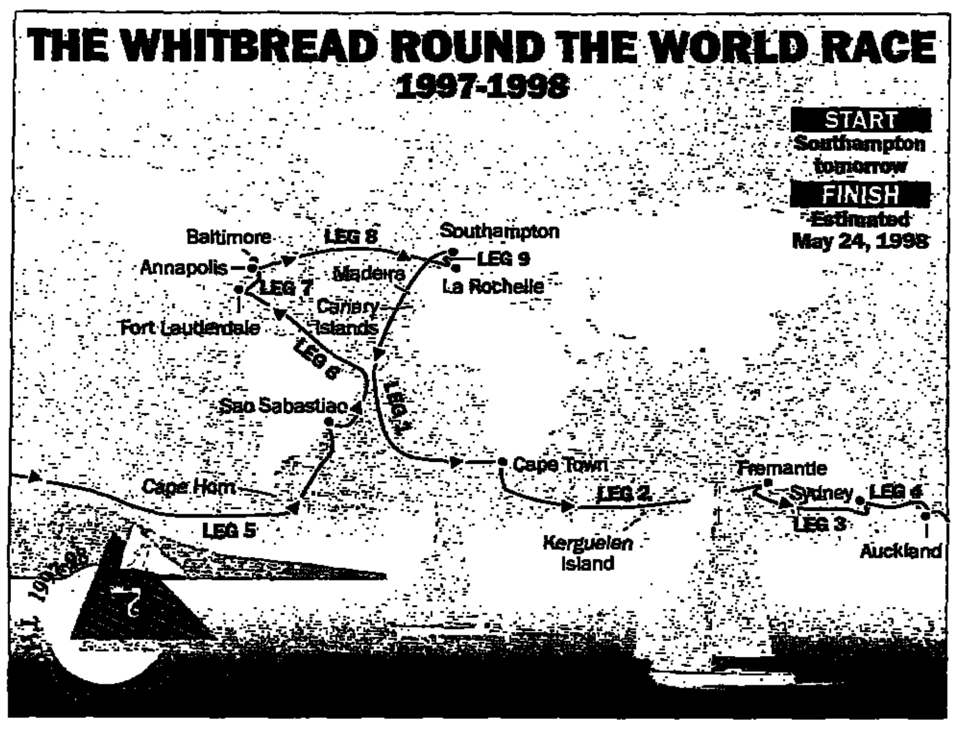
However, human resources may be the key to winning. The best boat and sails count for little if tactics are poor, or morale or discipline fail. The fleet is bursting with world-class talent and many of the skippers have distinguished track records in top-class yacht racing.

What gives this Whitbread an extra edge is the depth of history in the event among four of the leading skippers: Chris Dickson, of New Zealand, on *Toshiba*, would have won on *Tokio* last time, had he not been dismasted; Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain, on *Silk Cut*, desperately wants to win at his fourth attempt; Grant Dalton, on *Merit Cup*, has triumphed in a maxi but now faces the ultimate test in a virtual one-design fleet; and Ross Field returns late in the day to skipper *America's Challenge* after winning the W60 class last time on *Yamaha*. Paul Cayard, the America's Cup skipper, on *EF Language*, is the new boy on the block, but is likely to be a fast learner.

This will be the most easily followed Whitbread to date. BBC2 will carry half-hour programmes on either Thursday or Friday nights throughout the race and the start tomorrow will be broadcast live. The race will also be covered on the Internet at www.whitbread.org



Silk Cut, Britain's entry in the Whitbread round-the-world Race, will be among the pre-race favourites. Photograph: David Branigan



WHO'S WHO OF THE CHALLENGERS

America's Challenge

Designer: Alan Andrews. **Skipper:** Ross Field (NZ) **Navigator:** Halvard Mabire (Fr) **Watch Captains:** Richard Bouzaid (NZ), Jeff Scott (NZ)

Syndicate head Dr Neil Barth from Newport Beach, California, has poured months of effort and his own money into getting this partly-sponsored boat to the start. The Andrews design may give the Farr boats a run for their money, though the crew has only come together in the last month with the appointment of Field, who won the Whitbread 60 class on *Yamaha* last time. With him are some experienced Whitbread sailors from *Yamaha* and elsewhere. Includes Britain's Matt Humphries, who skippered *Dolphin & Youth* last time. Will do well to finish in the top five

BrunelSunergy

Designer: Judel/Vrolijk. **Skipper:** Hans Bouscholte (Holl) **Navigator:** Joao Cabecadas (Por) **Watch Captains:** Peter Tans (Holl), Arend Van Bergeijk (Holl), Gerard Rogivue (Switz)

The other non-Farr boat which could spring a surprise. Early dockside gossip, however, suggests this little known Dutch crew will not be on the pace. Bouscholte is a Figaro and Tour de France a la Voile winner who has also competed in the Mini-Transat and Admiral's Cup. This will be Rogivue's fifth Whitbread, having sailed with Pierre Fehlmann in the past two races

Chessie Racing

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** George Collins (US) **Navigator:** Juan Vila (Sp) **Watch Captains:** Grant Spanhake (NZ), Dave Scott (US)

Privately-funded boat with part-sponsorship from the Living Classrooms Foundation. The crew is low on Whitbread experience but Collins is a top owner-driver in the States and the boat did well in the Fastnet finishing fifth, four minutes behind *Silk Cut*. Collins is using a squad system for helmsmen with Gavin Brady, John Kostecki and Ken Read among those likely to join the boat for individual legs. The top outsider.

EF Language

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** Paul Cayard (US). **Navigator:** Mark Rudiger (US). **Watch Captains:** Magnus Olsson (Swe), Kimo Worthington (US)

Cayard came to this project in mid-December after Lawrie Smith backed out to join *Silk Cut*. Although an experienced America's Cup skipper, Cayard has had to cover a lot of ground to get up to speed in the Whitbread 60s. He was disappointed with the boat's Fastnet performance and replaced Nick White, the navigator with Mark Rudiger. This team could be dangerous, but probably too late in the race to win.

EF Education

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** Christine Guillou (Fr). **Navigator:** Lynnath Beckley (SA). **Watch Captains:** Leah Newbold (NZ), Kiny Parade (Switz)

The third all-female team in the race's history, this one is extremely short on Whitbread experience and they start this race as firm outsiders. Skipper Christine Guillou is an accomplished single and double-handed sailor. She may be assisted on eighth leg by France's top female single-hander, Isabelle Autissier

Innovation Kvaerner

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** Knut Frostad (Nor) **Navigator:** Marcel van Triest (Holl) **Watch Captains:** Jim Close (Aus), Pierre Mas (Fr).

The dark horse of the fleet, Frostad's boat is regarded by his competitors as one of the fastest all-round performers whose poor showing in the Fastnet may be highly misleading. The preparation has been thorough with early training on the old Winston followed by extensive on board testing of the new boat. Frostad made his name on *Intrum Justitia* in the last race on which he sailed with both van Triest and Mas.

Merit Cup

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** Grant Dalton (NZ) **Navigator:** Mike Quilter (NZ) **Watch Captains:** Dalton Kevin Shoebridge (NZ)

Grant Dalton won the maxi class in the last race in New Zealand Endeavour. The most experienced skipper, this is his fifth Whitbread, but also his biggest test as he takes on the world's best in the W60 class. Experienced crew, a two-boat programme, strong loyalty to the skipper, and plenty of money to fund it — a potential winner

Silk Cut

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** Lawrie Smith (GB) **Navigator:** Steve Hayles (GB) **Watch Captain,** Gordon Maguire (Ire)

Lawrie Smith's Whitbread dream came crashing down last time with the dismasting of *Fortuna* on the first leg but he sparkled on *Intrum Justitia* for the rest of the race. This is his third full Whitbread and with big money behind him from Silk Cut, it is his best chance of winning it. The boat is the last from the Farr board and Smith has tested more than 70 sails

Swedish Match

Designer: Bruce Farr **Skipper:** Gunnar Krantz (Swe) **Navigator:** Roger Nilson (Swe) **Watch Captains:** Tim Kroger (Ger), Rodney Ardern (NZ)

The most elegant paint-job on show, this boat has the potential to finish in the top three. The project is the result of the Krantz/Nilson partnership who both have rich Whitbread pedigrees. A strong New Zealand and Swedish crew includes Erle Williams as co-skipper who last sailed the race on *Flyer* in 1981, plus the only German in the fleet, Tim Kroger

Toshiba Racing

Designer: Bruce Farr. **Skipper:** Chris Dickson (NZ) **Navigator:** Andrew Cape (Aus) **Watch Captains:** Paul Standbridge (GB), Ross Macdonald (Can), Steve Cotton (Aus)

With Dennis Conner as overall team boss, *Toshiba* is a well-drilled and well-funded boat with one of the most experienced crews. Chris Dickson is probably the most talented Whitbread 60 skipper in the fleet. Another possible winner. The only team using "Cuben fibre" sails

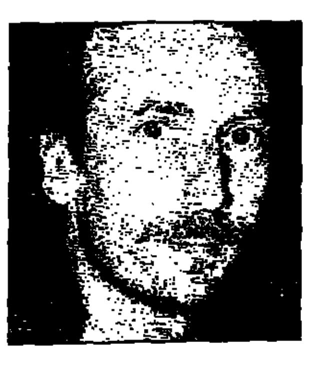
PORTS OF CALL

First leg (today to Oct 22): Southampton to Cape Town (7,350 miles) Second leg (Nov 8 to Nov 24): Cape Town to Fremantle (4,600 miles) Third leg (Dec 13 to Dec 22): Fremantle to Sydney (2,250 miles) Fourth leg (Jan 4 to Jan 9): Sydney to Auckland (1,270 miles). Fifth leg (Feb 1 to Feb 23): Auckland to Sao Sebastiao (6,670 miles) Sixth leg (Mar 14 to April 2): Sao Sebastiao to Fort Lauderdale (4,750 miles) Seventh leg (April 19 to April 22): Fort Lauderdale to Baltimore (870 miles). Eighth leg (May 3 to May 16): Annapolis to La Rochelle (3,390 miles). Ninth leg (May 22 to May 24): La Rochelle to Southampton (450 miles)

EDWARD GORMAN

Fisherman lands part of Baggio's pride and joy

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

LET no one say that this column has ever shrunk from the task of bringing the most important news in sport to its readers. What, I hear you ask, has happened to *Il codino divino*, aka The Divine Ponytail, the extravagance of the Italian footballer, Roberto Baggio. It was this column that broke the news to the nation that Baggio had cut the thing off. Now I can reveal that he gave a part of it to a fisherman called Ferruccio Paulo, with whom Baggio goes fishing. The two never talked football, but Paulo added: "I did teach Robertino something, though. I taught him how to fish or *vongole*, and I must admit he has learnt quickly and well."

Heart to heart

Jose Lopez will take part in the 5,000 metres walk in the Australian Transplant Games next month competing against his own heart. Lopez was given a new heart and lungs, which came from the young victim of a car crash. But it turned out that his own heart was still in good shape — so it was given to a Tasmanian farmer, Keith Webb. The pair subsequently became friends. Lopez said: "If he beats me, I'll ask for my heart back."

Sisters of Charity

Alas, on this day of days, I cannot bring you a Marge Schott story, but at least I can do the next best thing and tell one about George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees. After months of legal battles, Steinbrenner at last managed to sign the Japanese pitcher, Hideki Irabu, in a $12 million deal. But alas, Irabu is playing well below expectations. Steinbrenner went public with the following kindly intentioned statement: "I've got around seven dozen Hideki Irabu T-shirts. I am giving them to the Little Sisters of the Blind."

Come on Scobie

This week, the Queen's horse, Arabian Story, managed a storming victory and there are now plans to ship the four-year-old across the world to take part in the Melbourne Cup later this year. This prompted an Australian jockey of some note to pick up the phone and called Lord Huntingdon, Arabian Story's trainer, to declare himself available and willing to take the ride. This was none other than the great Scobie Breasley. The man certainly has class on his side, not to mention experience. Breasley is now 82.

Rough surface

This column has always sought to bring historical perspective to sporting matters and so, after the fall of 19 wickets on the first day of the crucial county championship match between Kent and Surrey, let us turn our thoughts to the pitches at Lord's in the 19th century. "Lord's wickets resemble a billiard table only because both have pockets," one critic of the time said. A pitch was prepared for a match by sending in a bunch of boys to pick the grass with their hands; the outfield was mowed by sheep, which did a good job with the grass, but left behind ample evidence of their passing. The lawnmower was invented in 1836: it was 40 years before these newfangled devices were regularly used on cricket grounds. By this reckoning, the county championship format of the present day is just about perfect for 1957.

The greatest of them all

And finally, in conclusion, it behoves this column to settle once and for all time the question of the greatest Test-match captain of the modern era. The answer is, as the table shows, Mike Brearley. My thanks to Alex Hammond-Chambers for drawing this up. The qualification is 30 Tests as captain; each captain gets three for a win and one for a draw. The crucial figure is the last, which is calculated by dividing the total number of points by the number of matches played.

	P	W	L	D	Record
Brearley	31	18	4	9	2.03
Richards	50	27	8	15	1.92
I Chappell	30	15	5	10	1.83
Lloyd	74	36	12	26	1.81
Taylor	33	18	10	5	1.79
May	41	20	10	11	1.73
Javed Miandad	34	14	6	14	1.65
Illingworth	31	12	5	14	1.61
G Chappell	48	21	13	14	1.60
Howarth	30	11	7	12	1.50
Border	93	32	22	38	1.44
Imran Khan	48	14	8	26	1.42
Dexter	30	9	7	14	1.37
Simpson	39	12	12	15	1.31
Gooch	34	10	12	12	1.24
Gavaskar	47	9	8	30	1.21
Sobers	39	9	10	20	1.21
Atherton	46	12	16	18	1.17
Kapil Dev	34	4	7	22	1.00
Pataudi	40	9	19	12	0.98
Gower	32	5	18	9	0.75
Reid	34	3	18	13	0.65

TRIATHLON

Lessing out to sustain run on path to Perth

BY DAVID POWELL

SIMON LESSING, the world champion, defends his unbeaten record for the season in the inaugural London Triathlon tomorrow. It will be Lessing's only competitive appearance of the year in Britain and his first since winning the International Triathlon Grand Prix at Longleat 13 months ago.

Lessing, South African-born, resident in France but representing Great Britain, comes to London two weeks after winning the France Iron Tour, eight races in nine days at various locations. He is keen to maintain the momentum as he moves towards defending his world Olympic distance title in Perth, Australia, eight weeks hence.

The Olympic distance — 1,500 metres swim, 40 kilometres ride, ten kilometres run — is the one adopted by London. Given that London will also permit the controversial drafting element, allowing cyclists to slipstream, Lessing should win comfortably. His strongest discipline is the run. Should he choose, he may slipstream on the ride, then attack on the run.

Ceris Gilfillan, 17, will be among the contenders to win the elite women's race after the withdrawal through injury of Sian Brice, the British Olympic distance champion, and through illness of Annaleah Emmerson, the British middle-distance champion. So talented is Gilfillan that she will represent Great Britain at two sports in world championships in the next eight weeks.

While studying for her A levels, Gilfillan will compete in the cycling world championships in San Sebastián next month.

London prepares, page 13

SPORT IN BRIEF

Cairns prompts Test collapse

CHRIS CAIRNS, the New Zealand all-rounder, completed his fourth five-wicket haul on the second day of the first Test match against Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday. Zimbabwe, 205 for four overnight, subsided to 298 all out, Grant Flower completing his third Test century before becoming one of Cairns's victims. New Zealand were 91 for three when bad light forced an early close.

Apart from Flower, who made 104, the only worthwhile resistance came from Paul Strang, who made 42, and John Rennie (22). The eighth-wicket pair put on 51. The last three wickets fell in the space of 17 balls, two of them to catches at first slip by Stephen Fleming, whose five catches equalled the best haul in a Test innings, excluding the wicketkeeper. New Zealand then lost both opening batsmen, Spearman and Pocock, in successive balls, as well as Horne, who was caught at fine leg.

Bjorkman holds out

TENNIS: Jonas Bjorkman wore down Omar Camporese 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to give Sweden a 1-0 lead over Italy in their Davis Cup semi-final tie in Norrkoping yesterday. It was the first of a tough three days for Bjorkman, who will play every day in the best-of-five series.

Bjorkman, 25, is used to demanding Davis Cup weekends. He also played three matches in the quarter-final against South Africa, including ten sets in the doubles and the last singles. But few expected that Camporese, ranked only 220th in the world, would extend the Swede to five sets. Bjorkman, ranked No 13, reached the US Open semi-finals earlier this month.

McRae seizes initiative

RALLYING: Colin McRae, of Scotland, driving a 555 Subaru, took a 35-second lead over Tommi Makinen, in a Mitsubishi, after eight special stages in the Rally of Indonesia yesterday. McRae and his co-driver, Nicky Grist, led the world championship contenders into Parapat for an the overnight stop.

Drivers face eight more stages today, over 149 kilometres, with the likelihood that heavy rain will create treacherous road conditions. "Everyone knows that if it rains here, it's the crew who actually manage to stay on the road and lose less time than anyone else who succeed," McRae said.

White lightning

SNOOKER: Jimmy White, without a tournament win for more than four years, needed only 78 minutes to overcome Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-0 in the semi-finals of the Catch China International Super Challenge in Beijing yesterday (Phil Yates writes). White will now play Steve Davis in the final. Despite the ease of his victory over O'Sullivan, who produced one of his least effective performances for a long time, White will have to be at his best to beat Davis, who progressed to the final by beating James Wattana 6-1. Davis's victory improved his frame record in the Beijing event to 15-1.

CYCLING

Boardman bounces back to defend title

BY PETER BRYAN

CHRIS BOARDMAN, eager to wipe out the memories of his "worst season" so far, culminating in his retirement last week from the Tour of Spain, is back in competition today. He has been given dispensation to ride in the classic Grand Prix des Nations time-trial at Lac de Madine, in France.

Boardman won the 72-kilometre event last year, ahead of Bjarne Riis and Abraham Olano, but did not enter this year because it clashed with the race in Spain.

"In the Spanish tour the previous nine months' racing and training just caught up with me," he said yesterday. "It was disappointing to retire, but at least I have been able to have a rest and recharge my batteries during the past week.

"I'm fairly confident that I can do a good ride; I know and like the course which is mainly on good, wide roads." Boardman regards Johan Museeuw, the world race champion, as his main rival.

Britain's other entries are David Millar, the prologue winner in the Tour de l'Avenir, Paul Manning and Yvonne McGregor, the bronze medal-winner in the world track pursuit championship last month.

Pavel Tonkov, of Russia, celebrated the birth of his son, Nicholas, by winning the thirteenth stage of the Tour of Spain in Valgrande Pajares yesterday. He raced clear in the last four kilometres of a mountainous, 196-kilometre stage from Ponferrada to finish 31 seconds ahead of José Jiménez, of Spain.

Laurent Dufaux, of Switzerland, was third, bringing him four seconds closer to Alex Zülle, who now leads overall by 32 seconds.

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

CHELSEA v ARSENAL
Tomorrow, 4.0

Oliver Holt

Dennis Bergkamp's fear of flying may have been an issue when Arsenal had to travel to PAOK Salonika earlier this week but Stamford Bridge is so close to Highbury that the Dutchman could get there on the Tube. Bergkamp will be back for the biggest FA Carling Premiership match of the season so far and his presence may just swing the balance towards the North London club.

Bergkamp was in mesmeric form before his enforced European lay-off and he is likely to be straining to impress again after his absence contributed to Arsenal's defeat in Greece. His understanding with Ian Wright, freed at last from the burden of trying to break the club goalscoring record once held by Cliff Bastin, has become almost telepathic and the combination of the two of them may be just too much for Chelsea.

Tony Adams is back, too, after his prolonged fightback from injury, so the only selection choice facing the Arsenal coach, Arsène Wenger, is whether to restore Gilles Grimandi, who was suspended for the Uefa Cup match, to the side in place of the veteran, Steve Bould. Marc Overmars, the Holland winger, is also coming under pressure as he struggles to adapt to the extra workload expected of him in English football, but Wenger is likely to persevere with him for some time yet.

Chelsea have won their past four Premiership matches and have moved on to the shoulders of Manchester United and Blackburn Rovers. However, they were trounced in the corresponding fixture at Stamford Bridge last season and they may be tired after the frustration of their modest home win over Slovan Bratislava on Thursday.

Apart from the aberration of their opening-day defeat at Coventry City, they have sailed past their other opponents and Arsenal will represent a significant step up in calibre, compared with the teams they have faced so far. They will have to wipe the profligacy they showed against the Slovaks from their performance if they are to beat Arsenal.

The selection of Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, is bound to be a talking-point again. Gianluca Vialli started the match against Slovan, so he might make way tomorrow, allowing Tore Andre Flo and Mark Hughes back into the equation alongside Gianfranco Zola. Only Dennis Wise, the subject of lavish weekly praise from Gullit, seems exempt from being dropped.

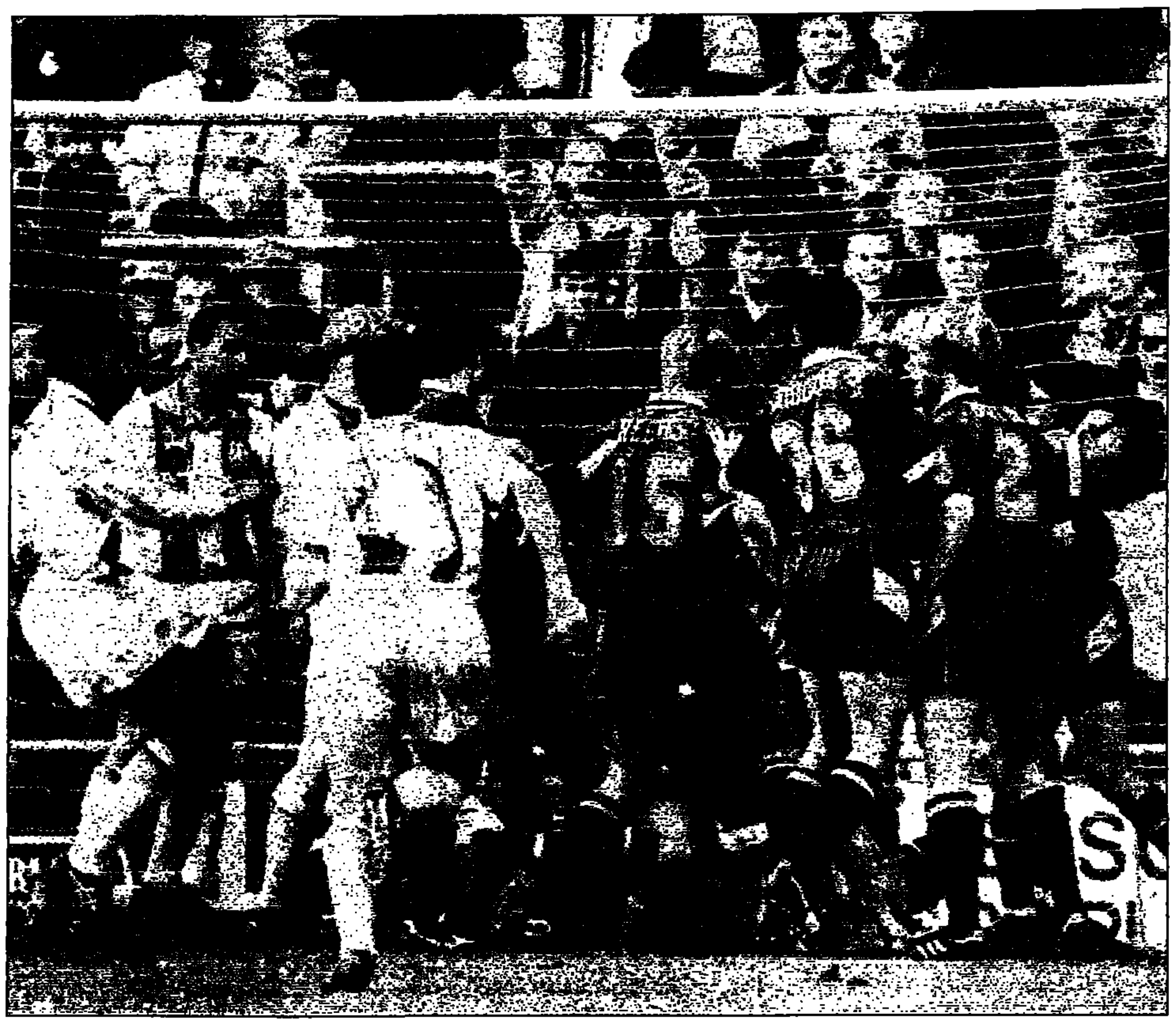
CHELSEA (probable; 3-5-2): E de Goey — P Hughes, M Duberry, F Leboeuf — D Petrescu, R Di Matteo, D Wise, G Poyet, G Le Saux — G Zola, M Hughes

ARSENAL (probable, 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Adams, G Grimandi, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright.

Referee: D Gallagher.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, 4.0.

■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to win by one goal.



And I said it's *your* turn to cut the grass . . . the ground-sharers of Crystal Palace and Wimbledon come to blows at Selhurst Park

11 FIRST ELEVEN

SHARE ISSUE

Football's version of This Life takes place today, when Crystal Palace face Wimbledon in an away game at their own ground. Stand by for all those arguments about Vinnie Jones squeezing the toothpaste from the middle and Efan Ekoku never washing up the saucepans properly.

1. Manchester City and Manchester Utd
When Old Trafford suffered bomb damage in the Second World War, City generously invited United over to stay.
2. Macclesfield Town and Chester City
Moss Rose was considered good enough for League football when Chester were homeless between 1990 and 1992, but strangely not when Macclesfield first won the Conference in 1995.
3. Bradford Northern and Bradford City
City used Odsal Stadium, home of the town's rugby league club, for more than a year after the fire at Valley Parade in 1985.
4. Crystal Palace and Charlton Athletic
When The Valley was left to the weeds, Charlton spent six unhappy years seven miles away at Selhurst.
5. West Ham Utd and Charlton Athletic
. . . and a further season and four months at Upton Park.
6. Gillingham and Brighton
The latest and perhaps least popular ground-share.
7. Queen's Park and Celtic
The Bhoys went across the city and used Hampden Park in 1994-95 while Celtic Park was being redeveloped.
8. Nottinghamshire CCC and Notts Co
The oldest club in the Football League spent 27 years at Trent Bridge before moving to Meadow Lane in 1910.
9. Bath City and Bristol Rovers
Rovers left Eastville for Twerton Park in 1986 and remained outside their home city for ten years.
10. Watford and Wealdstone
Vicarage Road proved a little on the large side for the Beazer Homes League side.
11. Partick Thistle and Clyde
Partick offered Clyde a roof over their heads when they left Shawfield in 1986. They stayed for five years and then spent another three with Hamilton Academical before finding a new home.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

ASTON VILLA v DERBY COUNTY
Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

A virus has been doing the Aston Villa rounds this week, with Brian Little, the manager, having to shoulder most of the blame. "It started with the boss," Allan Evans, his assistant, said. "There's been a lot of sore throats about."

It might perhaps explain why Stan Collymore was so lifeless in the Uefa Cup first round, first-leg 0-0 draw against Bordeaux, but he will retain his place for the visit of Derby County today. Savo Milosevic, a possible replacement, has been poorly, too.

At least Sasa Curcic, the temperamental Yugoslav, looked good in the Stade Lescure, when replacing Simon Grayson, and he will probably make his first start of the season today. After asking to come off the transfer list, it appears he has at last made his peace with the club. "He's happy now and his attitude is good," Little said. "We nearly lost him, but I'm glad we didn't."

Derby have yet to collect a point on their travels and are likely to draw another blank. Jacob Laursen, the defender, broke his nose in the 3-1 victory over Everton last week but will play on. "His nose is not out of alignment," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said. That's OK, then.

ASTON VILLA (probable; 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate — F Nelson, I Taylor, M Draper, S Curcic, A Wright — D Yorke, S Collymore.

DERBY COUNTY (probable; 3-5-2): M Poom — C Daily, I Stimac, J Laursen — S Eranio, J Hunt, A Asanovic, L Carsley, C Powell — F Baiano, D Sturridge.

Referee: J Winter.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Villa's revival to continue.

BOLTON WANDERERS v MANCHESTER UNITED
Today, 3.0

David Maddock

Alex Ferguson could be tempted to adopt the Take That approach this afternoon — *Everything Changes*. The manager has identified the Saturday hangover after the European midweek match as a problem and has spoken of wholesale changes, so Ronnie Johnsen, Phil Neville, Teddy Sheringham, Jordi Cruyff and even Brian McClair may all come in. Will Andy Cole be allowed another opportunity to devise ever more weird and wonderful ways of missing in front of goal?

Bolton have made an indifferent start, but there will be no indifference to only their second game at their new stadium. This is a local derby, the best United have got now that Manchester City are paid-up members of the mediocrity club, and Bolton supporters hate their big-city neighbours with some passion.

Mark Fish, the South African, will be thrown into the deep end for his debut and Mike Whitlow also starts for his new club against the team he supported as a boy, after signing on Thursday. Colin Todd has slight injury worries over Beardsley, Sellars and Thompson, but his biggest headache will be trying to avoid a repeat of the 6-0 thrashing handed out when Bolton last entertained United two seasons ago.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable; 4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, M Fish, G Taggart, M Whitlow — J Pollock, A Thompson, P Frandsen, S Sellars — N Blake, P Beardsley

MANCHESTER UNITED (possible; 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — P Neville, H Berg, R Johnsen, D Irwin — P Scholes, R Keane, B McClair, K Poborsky — E Sheringham, J Cruyff

Referee: P Durkin.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: A whirlwind game ending in a draw.

EVERTON v BARNSLEY
Today, 3.0

Nick Szczepanik

Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, expressed concern last weekend that his players are overawed by big names, but, as Everton supporters are painfully aware, that is not likely to be too much of a problem at Goodison Park today.

Rumours this week of glamorous arrivals — anyone from Fabrizio Ravanelli again (yawn) to Uwe Rösler — have so far proved unfounded. However, the one about Nick Barmby being on his way out seems near the mark after his omission at Scunthorpe in midweek, although the indications are that he will play today.

Big names or not, Wilson, critical of his team's defending against Aston Villa last Saturday, has problems in the Barnsley rearguard, with both Arjan de Zeeuw, who missed the game at Chesterfield on Tuesday, and Lars Leese, the goalkeeper, struggling for fitness.

Admittedly, as Everton have yet to draw at home while Barnsley have not shared the points away from Oakwell, the classic ingredients are in place for a distinctly non-classic draw.

Yet one suspects that until Barnsley sacrifice at least some of the samba style in favour of a little Yorkshire grit, teams like Everton will continue to be too much for them.

EVERTON (possible; 3-5-2): N Southall — C Short, D Watson, S Bilic — E Barrett, D Williamson, G Speed, G Farrelly, A Hinchcliffe — N Barmby, D Ferguson

BARNSLEY (probable, 3-5-2): L Leese — A de Zeeuw, M Appleby, A Moses — N Eaden, M Tinkler, N Redfearn, A Liddell, D Barnard — A Ward, G Hristov

Referee: G Ashby

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Everton to win in the end

LEEDS UNITED v LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0

Mark Hodkinson

Elland Road is fast becoming the country's unofficial Home for Fallen Footballers. Two of its long-term residents, Brolin and Yeboah, may soon be offloaded to Heart of Midlothian and SV Hamburg respectively. This will delight the diplomats at Leeds United's Clubcall, who referred to the pair this week as "men of yesterday still hanging around today". Ouch.

Leeds have been the epitome of inconsistency this season, veering from the inspired to the insipid. They were dashing in the surprise win at Blackburn Rovers last weekend, but only marginally superior to the journeymen from Bristol City in their Coca-Cola Cup match on Wednesday.

Leicester City performed grandly in losing just 2-1 to Atlético Madrid in their midweek Uefa Cup match and the hullabaloo about their return to European action might be expected to hinder their FA Carling Premiership programme. Martin O'Neill, their manager, will have none of it. He is a shrewd motivator and they will set about Leeds with more than enough vigour.

Ian Marshall suffered a gashed calf in Spain, but is expected to play, along with Steve Walsh, who has had a strained groin. Leeds have no injury worries.

LEEDS UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, R Molenaar, D Wetherall, J Robertson — G Kelly, D Hopkin, L Radebe, H Kewell — R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.

LEICESTER CITY (probable; 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker, S Guppy — I Marshall, E Heskey.

Referee: K Burge

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Scrappy 2-1 win for the visitors.

WEST HAM UNITED v NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0

Matt Dickinson

Expected to walk over a weakened Wimbledon in their last Premiership fixture, Newcastle inexplicably crumbled. Cannon-fodder for Barcelona's irresistible force on Wednesday night, they said, so Newcastle produced one of the most memorable performances in the club's history. Nothing is predictable about Kenny Dalglish's side at the moment apart from the manager's typical reluctance to be carried away by the midweek heroics in the Champions' League.

The fans would probably forgive their team a run of defeats stretching until Christmas on the back of that one, magical evening at St James' Park, but Dalglish, as ever, will be relentless in his demands as they return to domestic action and there will be no smug faces allowed in the visitors' dressing-room at Upton Park today.

"Once you have a taste of Europe, you want another taste and the only way to get it is to be successful in domestic competitions and earn the right to go to these places and play games like that against Barcelona," Dalglish said.

All eyes, inevitably, will be on the mesmerising talents of Faustino Asprilla, an impossible enigma four days ago but now suddenly elevated by his remarkable hat-trick to undisputed world-class level. Harry Redknapp's team will not be unduly worried after a promising start to the season and they deserved better from the 2-1 defeat at Old Trafford last week. Paul Kitson is missing today with a groin injury and is likely to be replaced by Iain Dowie. The job of shackling Asprilla will fall in part to Ian Pearce, who is expected to make his West Ham debut after his £2.3 million move from Blackburn.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, I Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth — M Hughes, S Lomas, E Berkovic, S Lazaridis — J Hartson, I Dowie

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): S Given — W Barton, S Watson, P Albert, J Beresford — K Gillespie, R Lee, D Batty, J Barnes — J D Tomasson, F Asprilla.

Referee: S Dunn

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Back to reality for Newcastle's fantasy footballers with a hard-fought draw.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v COVENTRY CITY
Today, 3.0

Richard Hobson

Both sides succumbed to lower-division opponents in the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek and Sheffield Wednesday's defeat at Grimsby prompted calls for the head of David Pleat, the manager, from a section of supporters.

Even by modern standards of short-termism, such demands are premature. Wednesday have suffered more than most with injuries and have played just two of their first seven games at home. Victories this afternoon and against Derby County on Wednesday, also at Hillsborough, would appease the baying masses.

Carbone completes a three-match suspension while Hirst, Donaldson and Booth, among the strikers, are considered unlikely to start. Nigel Clough, on loan from Manchester City, is more likely to appear.

Coventry expect Dublin to return after missing the 1-0 defeat at Blackpool because of a knee injury. That game was played in torrential rain and winds approaching 50mph and Coventry have made an official complaint after a spectator pointed a laser beam into Kyle Lightbourne's face. Lightbourne will continue if Huckerby fails to recover from an ankle injury while Nilsson will play against his former club.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (possible, 4-4-2): K Pressman — S Nicol, D Walker, J Newsome, I Nolan — P Atherton, N Clough, M Pembridge, J Magilton — P Di Canio, G Whittingham.

COVENTRY CITY (possible; 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, P Williams, R Shaw, D Burrows — P Telfer, T E Soltvedt, G McAllister, J Salako — D Dublin, D Huckerby

Referee: G Willard

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Coventry to edge a high-scoring game.

SOUTHAMPTON v LIVERPOOL
Today, 3.0

Peter Robinson

Last week was one to celebrate for Southampton supporters, one in which the dark clouds showed a silver lining. The reason was not the Coca-Cola Cup defeat of Brentford, but the return of Matthew Le Tissier, who scored in the reserve team's 1-1 draw at Watford.

Le Tiss, a one-club man and the nearest thing to a one-man club in English football, has been much missed since he broke an arm during a pre-season tour of Germany. David Jones, the manager, said he was only 75 per cent fit at Vicarage Road, but better 75 per cent of Le Tissier than nothing. He will surely be involved at some point at The Dell today, because the visitors look too classy to face without him.

Mind you, observers said the same of Celtic's chances in midweek. There is much to be said for passion, running and more running in modern football, but it is hard to see Liverpool falling for that twice in a week. They should be more or less unchanged (although Rob Jones is unlikely to be fit); Robbie Fowler is fit again, however. The partnership of Riedle, the German, and Owen, the prodigy, is blossoming, but Liverpool reportedly are planning to pay Fowler £1 million a year, so he will not be left out for long.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable, 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, L Todd — M Oakley, A Neilson, K Richardson, J Bowen — K Davies, E Ostenstad

LIVERPOOL (probable, 3-5-2): D James — B T Kvarme, M Wright, D Matteo — J McAteer, S McManaman, P Ince, M Thomas, S I Bjornebye — K Riedle, M Owen

Referee: P Jones

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights

■ PREDICTION: Comfortable away win.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR v BLACKBURN ROVERS
Today, 3.0

Brian Glanville

Collapsing at Leicester City, muddling through against Carlisle United, Tottenham's permanent injury crisis now seems to have become a crisis of morale as well. They are desperately short of strikers. Armstrong, Iversen, Ferdinand and Fenn are all hurt. Only Mahorn, 24, who hardly ever gets a game but spared Tottenham's blushes with his goal against Carlisle, looks fit and available.

Roy Hodgson brings a Blackburn Rovers team whose defence collapsed at home to Leeds United last Sunday, though Rovers rallied to thump Preston North End 6-0 in midweek. Sol Campbell, who had a hard time against Emile Heskey at Leicester, will have to be at his sharpest to contain Blackburn's panoply of strikers. Martin Dahlin scored twice against Preston. Chris Sutton has emphatically found the range.

Whatever problems Blackburn may have at the back are unlikely to be exposed by a Spurs attack so short of strikers. Hope for Tottenham lies in the brave brilliance of Dominguez, the tiny Portuguese, and the sporadically dazzling Ruel Fox. Who knows, David Ginola may even brighten a game worthy of his reputation. Hard, though, to see Blackburn losing.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable, 3-6-1): I Walker — S Campbell, G Mabbutt, J Scales — S Carr, D Howells, A Nielsen, R Fox, J Dominguez, D Ginola — P Mahorn.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2): T Flowers — P Valery, S Henchoz, C Hendry, J Kenna — A Andersson, G Flitcroft, L Bohinen, J Wilcox — C Sutton, M Dahlin.

Referee: G Barber

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: A Blackburn victory

WIMBLEDON v CRYSTAL PALACE
Today, 3.0

Keith Pike

They cannot, Joe Kinnear admits, enter "the glamour end of the transfer market", but the Wimbledon manager need not feel envious — not while he can continue to unearth youngsters of such obvious potential as Carl Cort.

Having marked his full Premiership debut with the opening goal in the victory over Newcastle United last Saturday and scored two more in midweek against Millwall, Cort, 20, will be hoping to continue in the same vein today. Like most of his team, Cort "has got Wimbledon stamped through and through", Kinnear said.

"The big transfers are out of our reach, but we give every kid a chance to make it. We have got a massive you set-up and that is where the all the hard work is done. Carl has done extremely well, but he must keep his feet on the ground."

To emphasise the point, Kinnear said that Cort has only a "good chance" of retaining his place, but having made seven changes for the match against Millwall, Kinnear is sure to return to his A team against a Palace side now fulfilling expectations, ie, struggling. Warhurst, Edworthy and Rodger are struggling with injury, but Lombardo returns.

WIMBLEDON (probable; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — N Ardley, V Jones, R Earle, M Gayle — C Cort, E Ekoku

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable, 3-5-2): K Miller — D Tuttle, A Roberts, A Linighan — K Muscat, J Fullarton, N Emblen, A Lombardo, D Gordon — N Shipperley, B Dyer.

Referee: P Alcock.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Wimbledon to make home advantage count.

هكذا من الاصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Anatomy of the goal that appears to have excited everyone

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

I'll let you in on a little secret. I didn't just close my eyes and hit it. I'm referring to the goal I scored against Celtic on Tuesday evening, which seems to have generated quite a bit of interest.

After the game I was surrounded by television cameras and they all asked me to talk about the goal. So I said it was nothing really. I just ran with the ball and when I arrived at the edge of the box I closed my eyes and hit it. When I looked up, the ball was in the net.

I wasn't being glib, I wasn't being falsely modest. If I'm honest I was ever so slightly embarrassed because the goal obscured the fact that Liverpool had played badly in the second half at Celtic Park.

That's why I tried to play it down. I wanted to get the point across that we had been a bit lucky because we had not fired on all cylinders and yet had escaped with a draw, when we could so easily have lost a match we should have won. It was a frustrating game, even though I scored a decent goal, because we showed that we are a good side capable of playing intelligent football, but then we just fell away as the match progressed. I felt it would have been misleading to concentrate on my goal.

But people have been talking to me about it all week. It wasn't a bad goal and it was probably one of the best I've scored, in a game that matters anyway. Interestingly, though, I do see it differently to most people.

I've read since that I beat four or five people and that it was one of the great goals. I honestly don't see it like that. In my own mind, I didn't beat anyone in the real sense of the word. When I picked the ball up, Wieghorst came tight and made up my mind for me. I *pushed the ball one side of him* and ran past him on the other. But from then, I don't think I went round anyone. There was space for me to run into and I took it. When I got close to the penalty area, the Celtic defence pushed me towards the left and then, belatedly, a player came to challenge.

I had already looked up as I approached the area and saw there was a space to the goalkeeper's right and, just before the challenge came in, I got a good contact and it went in. My instant emotion was relief, because we should not have been losing the match.

You don't get a clear picture of things opening up for you on a run like that, it's not so simple. I suppose it took maybe five or six seconds to score the goal, but during the run I didn't think the chance was developing for me.

There were two good runs from our forwards in front of me and that helped to create the space. It was only as I approached the penalty area that I could see the shooting chance developing.

One or two people have said it was one of the greatest goals they have ever seen. But I've seen far better. Trevor Sinclair's for Queens Park Rangers last season — that spectacular overhead kick — was absolutely brilliant and the best, for me, must have been Maradona's against England in the World Cup quarter-finals in 1986.

That had everything. He ran a long way, beat players, showed strength and then found the perfect finish. It was also a huge occasion and I think that is what defines a great goal — if you produce it when it really matters.

My goal was bound to get attention, if only because I ran a long way and it was in the last minute. But when you score goals like that, it's funny how things develop for you. Take the Maradona goal. As he came forward, the first defender dived in and that helped him no end.

When defenders dive in, it gives an advantage to the forward because it not only gives you the opportunity to get past him and move on at pace, but it also throws the defenders behind him out. So often when a defender dives in, it puts everyone else off balance, moves them out of position and creates space.

I was amused by the reaction to my goal. If you score a decent one, then you are a great player no matter how you have played during the rest of the game. But then it only lasts a week, because the next time you miss people develop short memories. That's just the way it is, so I'd better enjoy this while I can. It wasn't my best ever though. Did I ever mention the time when I was 12?

And so to the return leg at Anfield. If we are honest, everyone in the Liverpool team must accept that in the end we were fortunate to escape from Celtic Park with a draw and two valuable away goals. After the start we had, when we really did play well for the first 20 minutes, we should not have allowed ourselves to slip into the position where Celtic stole the initiative in the game and could have punished us even further.

We had problems, partly because Paul Ince had been suffering badly from flu and had not been able to get out of bed for the two days before the match. He admitted during the game that he was finding it hard going, but that cannot be used as an excuse. The fact remains that if we lose concentration in the return leg and allow the game to slip again, then we will be punished.

Celtic are a committed team. They thrived on the passion their supporters generated and once they got going they really came at us. It was a great atmosphere in Glasgow. The fans really seemed to enjoy the evening and they know how to get behind their side. I'm sure it will be a similar atmosphere at our ground, because I know our supporters are looking forward to the visit of Celtic and that they want to put on a bit of a show by supporting us fervently. It was a good game to watch last Tuesday night and I hope the return leg will be the same.

We are in a good position and if we play to our full ability then I'm sure we can go through to the next round. We will also have Robbie Fowler available and that will be a bonus.

Michael Owen and Karlheinz Riedle have played very well this season, but you can't argue against Robbie's record. He has scored 30 goals in each of his first three seasons for Liverpool and you just know that he will do the same this season if he can avoid any further injuries.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	PLAYED	POINTS	GOAL DIFF	HOME					AWAY					LAST 10 MATCHES W-D-L	CURRENT STREAK
				W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A		
1. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	6	16	+9	3	0	0	6	1	2	1	0	4	0	5-1-0	W3
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (1)	6	13	+9	2	1	1	12	7	2	0	0	6	1	4-1-1	L1
3. CHELSEA (4)	5	12	+12	1	0	0	4	2	3	0	1	13	3	4-0-1	W4
4. ARSENAL (5)	6	12	+7	2	1	0	6	1	1	2	0	7	5	3-3-0	W1
5. LEICESTER CITY (6)	6	11	+4	2	2	0	7	3	1	0	1	2	2	3-2-1	W1
6. WEST HAM UTD (3)	6	10	+2	2	0	0	5	2	1	1	2	5	6	3-1-2	L1
7. LIVERPOOL (11)	5	8	+2	1	0	1	3	3	1	2	0	4	2	2-2-1	W2
8. COVENTRY CITY (13)	6	8	-3	2	2	0	7	5	0	0	2	0	5	2-2-2	W1
9. LEEDS UTD (15)	6	7	-2	0	1	2	1	5	2	0	1	7	5	2-1-3	W1
10. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (7)	6	7	-4	2	0	1	4	4	0	1	2	1	5	2-1-3	L1
11. DERBY COUNTY (17)	4	6	+1	2	0	0	4	1	0	0	2	0	2	2-0-2	W2
12. NEWCASTLE UTD (8)	3	6	0	2	0	1	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-1	L1
13. ASTON VILLA (19)	6	6	-3	1	0	1	1	4	1	0	3	5	5	2-0-4	W2
14. CRYSTAL PALACE (9)	6	6	-3	0	0	3	1	6	2	0	1	4	2	2-0-4	L3
15. BARNSLEY (10)	6	6	-9	1	0	3	3	12	1	0	1	1	1	2-0-3	L2
16. WIMBLEDON (20)	5	5	-2	0	2	1	2	4	1	0	1	4	4	1-2-2	W1
17. BOLTON WANDERERS (12)	5	5	-3	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	5	8	1-2-2	L2
18. EVERTON (14)	5	4	-4	1	0	2	3	5	0	1	1	1	3	1-1-3	L2
19. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (16)	6	4	-8	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	3	5	12	1-1-4	L1
20. SOUTHAMPTON (18)	6	3	-6	1	0	2	2	4	0	0	3	2	6	1-0-5	L2

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	17	3.40
2. Blackburn	18	3.00
3. Arsenal	13	2.17
4. Manchester Utd	10	1.67
=. West Ham	10	1.67
6. Leicester	9	1.50
7. Liverpool	7	1.40
8. Leeds Utd	8	1.33
9. Newcastle	4	1.33
10. Wimbledon	6	1.20
11. Coventry	7	1.17
=. Sheffield Wed	7	1.17
13. Aston Villa	6	1.00
=. Bolton	5	1.00
=. Derby	4	1.00
16. Crystal Palace	5	0.83
=. Tottenham	5	0.83
18. Everton	4	0.80
19. Barnsley	4	0.67
=. Southampton	4	0.67

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	1	0.17
2. Derby	3	0.75
3. Leicester	5	0.83
4. Arsenal	6	1.00
5. Chelsea	5	1.00
=. Liverpool	5	1.00
7. Newcastle	4	1.33
8. Blackburn	8	1.33
=. Crystal Palace	8	1.33
=. West Ham	8	1.33
11. Aston Villa	9	1.50
=. Tottenham	9	1.50
13. Bolton	8	1.60
=. Everton	8	1.60
=. Wimbledon	8	1.60
16. Coventry	10	1.67
=. Leeds Utd	10	1.67
=. Southampton	10	1.67
19. Barnsley	13	2.17
20. Sheffield Wed	15	2.50

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Crystal Palace	20	0
2. Sheffield Wed	14	1
3. Arsenal	15	0
=. Coventry	15	0
5. Tottenham	13	1
6. Everton	12	1
=. Leeds Utd	12	1
8. Chelsea	9	1
9. Southampton	10	0
=. West Ham	10	0
=. Wimbledon	10	0
12. Bolton	9	0
=. Derby	9	0
14. Blackburn	8	0
=. Leicester	8	0
=. Liverpool	8	0
17. Newcastle	5	1
18. Manchester Utd	6	0
19. Aston Villa	5	0
20. Barnsley	4	0

OFFENDERS

By team	Cards/players
Arsenal	3Y Bergkamp, Bould
Aston Villa	2Y Taylor
Barnsley	2Y Sheridan
Blackburn	2Y Flitcroft, Sutton
Bolton	3Y Taggart
Chelsea	2Y Wise, M Hughes
Coventry	5Y Williams
C Palace	5Y Tuttle
Derby	2Y Eranio, Laursen
Everton	3Y Bilic
Leeds Utd	1Y+1R Kewell
Leicester	2Y Heskey, Lennon
Liverpool	3Y Ince
Man Utd	1Y (6 players)
Newcastle	2Y+1R Batty
Sheff Wed	2Y+1R Carbone
Southampton	2Y Monkou
Tottenham	3Y+1R Edinburgh
West Ham	3Y Moncur
Wimbledon	2Y Gayle

REFEREES

		Cards issued	
	P	Yellow	Red
1. S Dunn	2	14	1
2. G Willard	3	18	2
3. P Durkin	3	18	0
4. M Riley	3	14	1
5. M Bodenham	3	14	0
6. J Winter	3	11	1
7. G Barber	3	12	0
8. P Alcock	2	8	0
9. P Jones	3	11	0
=. U Rennie	3	11	0
11. G Ashby	2	7	0
12. A Wilkie	5	14	1
13. N Barry	3	9	0
14. M Reed	1	3	0
15. D Gallagher	3	8	0
16. K Burge	3	7	0
=. D Elleray	3	7	0
18. G Poll	4	9	0
19. S Lodge	4	7	0

SCORERS

	Goals
Sutton (Blackburn)	7
Gallacher (Blackburn)	6
Wright (Arsenal)	6
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	5
Carbone (Sheff Wed)	4
Hartson (West Ham)	4
Vialli (Chelsea)	4
Wallace (Leeds)	4
Blake (Bolton)	3
Dublin (Coventry)	3
Ferdinand (Tottenham)	3
Petrescu (Chelsea)	3

Players on two goals: Asprilla (Newcastle); Beckham, Keane (Manchester Utd); Berkovic (West Ham); Davies (Southampton); Dyer (C Palace); Elliott, Heskey and Walsh (Leicester); Ekoku (Wimbledon); Huckerby (Coventry); M Hughes, Leboeuf (Chelsea); Ince (Liverpool); Lombardo (C Palace); Owen (Liverpool); Redfearn (Barnsley); Stuart (Everton); Yorke (Aston Villa).

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	7	6
Aston Villa	2	4
Barnsley	2	2
Blackburn	14	4
Bolton	3	2
Chelsea	10	7
Coventry	4	3
Crystal Palace	2	3
Derby	3	1
Everton	1	3
Leeds Utd	7	1
Leicester	2	7
Liverpool	1	6
Manchester Utd	3	7
Newcastle	3	1
Sheffield Wed	2	5
Southampton	2	2
Tottenham	2	3
West Ham	3	7
Wimbledon	2	4

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
Arsenal	37,855	98%
Aston Villa	38,070	97%
Barnsley	18,537	100%
Blackburn	23,830	76%
Bolton	23,131	93%
Crystal Palace	22,861	87%
Chelsea	30,008	95%
Coventry	19,074	81%
Derby	27,530	92%
Everton	36,717	91%
Leeds	35,615	89%
Leicester	20,824	97%
Liverpool	35,856	100%
Manchester Utd	55,050	98%
Newcastle	36,673	99%
Sheffield Wed	28,186	71%
Southampton	15,161	99%
Tottenham	26,187	79%
West Ham	24,935	96%
Wimbledon	19,949	76%

AWAY

Attendance	P	Average
Arsenal	3	24,776
Aston Villa	4	25,513
Barnsley	2	24,390
Blackburn	2	28,981
Bolton	4	22,160
Chelsea	4	22,320
Coventry	2	46,199
Crystal Palace	3	26,608
Derby	2	24,722
Everton	2	25,480
Leeds	3	30,834
Leicester	2	29,929
Liverpool	3	32,023
Manchester Utd	3	29,220
Newcastle	0	—
Sheff Wed	4	25,634
Southampton	3	34,558
Tottenham	3	28,046
West Ham	4	31,595
Wimbledon	2	30,386

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites	
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 — ** denotes all-ticket*

Pools coupon numbers in brackets

In Premiership fixtures † denotes sold out, otherwise tickets still available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Aston Villa v Derby
(2) † Bolton v Manchester Utd
(3) Everton v Barnsley
(4) Leeds v Leicester
(5) Sheffield Wednesday v Coventry
(6) † Southampton v Liverpool
(7) † Tottenham v Blackburn
(8) † West Ham v Newcastle
(9) Wimbledon v Crystal Palace

Nationwide League
First division

(10) * Crewe v Queens Park Rangers
(11) Ipswich v Stoke
(12) Manchester City v Norwich
(13) Middlesbrough v Birmingham
(14) Nottingham Forest v Portsmouth
(15) Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd
(16) Port Vale v Bury
(17) Stockport v Huddersfield
(18) Sunderland v Wolverhampton
(19) Tranmere v Reading
(20) West Bromwich v Swindon

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford	7	4	2	1	11	9	14
Swindon	7	4	2	1	9	5	14
West Bromwich	7	4	2	1	8	6	14
Birmingham	6	4	1	1	11	3	13
Nottm Forest	7	4	1	2	11	5	13
Sunderland	7	4	0	3	12	8	12
Wolverhampton	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
Sheffield Utd	5	3	2	0	5	1	11
Charlton	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Port Vale	7	3	1	3	8	8	10
Bury	7	2	4	1	7	7	10
QPR	6	3	1	2	7	8	10
Portsmouth	6	2	2	2	11	10	8
Middlesbrough	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Stoke	6	2	2	2	4	5	8
Norwich	7	2	1	4	4	13	7
Oxford Utd	7	2	0	5	10	11	6
Man City	6	1	3	2	9	10	6
Crewe	6	2	0	4	8	10	6
Ipswich	5	1	3	1	6	6	6
Tranmere	7	1	1	5	5	12	4
Reading	7	1	1	5	4	12	4
Stockport	7	0	3	4	7	11	3
Huddersfield	6	0	3	3	4	8	3

Second division

(21) Blackpool v Oldham
(22) Bristol City v Bournemouth
(23) Burnley v Preston
(24) Carlisle v Plymouth
(25) Chesterfield v Bristol Rovers
(26) Gillingham v Watford
(27) Grimsby v Millwall
(28) Luton v Wrexham
(29) Northampton v Wigan
(30) Southend v Fulham
(31) Walsall v York

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	7	6	0	1	11	5	18
Chesterfield	7	4	2	1	10	6	14
Northampton	7	4	2	1	9	5	14
Oldham	7	3	3	1	10	8	12
Bristol Rov	7	3	3	1	9	5	12
Bournemouth	7	3	2	2	8	6	11
Preston	7	3	2	2	8	5	11
Gillingham	7	3	2	2	7	7	11
Fulham	7	3	2	2	6	5	11
* Wycombe	7	3	1	3	14	14	10
Wigan	7	3	1	3	12	10	10
York	7	3	1	3	9	9	10
Millwall	5	3	0	2	11	6	9
Blackpool	7	3	0	4	9	15	9
* Brentford	7	2	2	3	7	10	8
Wrexham	6	2	1	3	10	10	7
Bristol City	6	2	1	3	8	7	7
Carlisle	7	2	1	4	8	11	7
Southend	7	2	1	4	8	13	7
Grimsby	7	1	4	2	6	8	7
Luton	7	1	3	3	3	6	6
Walsall	7	1	2	4	6	11	5
Plymouth	7	0	5	2	5	8	5
Burnley	7	0	3	4	1	6	3

** not including last night's match*

Third division

(32) Barnet v Scunthorpe
(—) * Darlington v Hartlepool
(33) Doncaster v Cambridge Utd
(34) Exeter v Rotherham
(35) Lincoln v Cardiff
(36) Mansfield v Chester
(37) Peterborough v Leyton Orient
(38) Rochdale v Hull
(39) Scarborough v Macclesfield
(—) Shrewsbury v Notts County
(—) Swansea v Colchester
(—) Torquay v Brighton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peterboro	7	4	2	1	18	7	14
Macclesfield	7	4	2	1	11	5	14
Notts County	7	4	2	1	11	6	14
Exeter	7	4	2	1	8	5	14
Camb Utd	7	4	1	2	14	10	13
Barnet	7	4	1	2	13	12	13
Chester	7	4	1	2	10	5	13
Scunthorpe	7	4	1	2	7	6	13
Cardiff	7	3	3	1	9	8	12
L Orient	7	4	0	3	8	5	12
Colchester	7	3	2	2	11	11	11
Scarborough	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
Hartlepool	7	2	4	1	10	7	10
Lincoln	7	3	1	3	9	11	10
Rotherham	7	2	3	2	11	10	9
Swansea	7	3	0	4	11	15	9
Shrewsbury	7	2	1	4	9	12	7
Mansfield	7	2	1	4	8	7	7
Torquay	7	2	1	4	6	11	7
Rochdale	7	2	0	5	7	9	6
Darlington	7	1	2	4	7	10	5
Hull	7	1	1	5	7	14	4
Brighton	7	0	3	4	5	10	3
Doncaster	7	0	2	5	4	17	2

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Dover v Kidderminster
(—) Farnborough v Halifax
(—) Gateshead v Woking
(—) Hednesford v Southport
(—) Kettering v Hereford
(—) Leek v Hayes
(—) Morecambe v Welling
(—) Slough v Northwich
(—) Stalybridge v Cheltenham
(—) Stevenage v Telford
(—) Yeovil v Rushden and Diamonds

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Celtic v Aberdeen
(41) Dunfermline v Kilmarnock P
(42) Hearts v Dundee Utd
(43) Motherwell v Hibernian
(44) St Johnstone v Rangers

First division

(45) Ayr v Raith
(46) Dundee v Hamilton
(47) Falkirk v St Mirren
(48) Partick v Greenock Morton
(49) Stirling v Airdrie

Second division

(—) Clyde v Brechin
(—) Clydebank v Stenhousemuir
(—) East Fife v Livingston
(—) Forfar v Stranraer
(—) Queen of South v Inverness CT

Third division

(—) Albion v Alloa
(—) Arbroath v Dumbarton
(—) *East Stirling v Montrose*
(—) Queen's Park v Cowdenbeath
(—) Ross County v Berwick

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership
† Chelsea v Arsenal (4.0)

Nationwide League
First division
Charlton v Bradford (1.0)

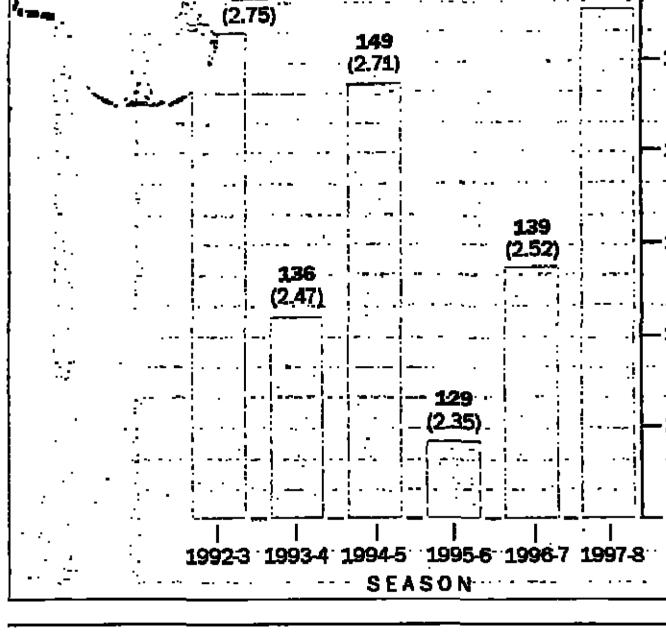
Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Dunfermline v Kilmarnock (2.0)

BROADCASTING DETAILS

BBC1: Today: *Football Focus*, in *Grandstand*, 12.20pm; *Match of the Day*, 10.50pm.
BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live match commentary (to be decided) in *Sport on 5*, from 1.0pm. Tomorrow: Live commentary on Chelsea v Arsenal in *Trevor Brooking's Sunday Sport*, from 1.0pm
Channel 4: Tomorrow: Serie A, Internazionale v Fiorentina (live), from 2.45pm.
Sky Sports: 1: Tomorrow: *Goals on Sunday*, 11am; Ford Super Sunday, Chelsea v Arsenal (live), from 3.0pm. 2: Today: Soccer AM, 8am. Tomorrow: Soccer Extra, 8am, Nationwide League football, Charlton v Bradford (live), from 12pm.

THE FAR CORNER: KICK-STARTING THE SEASON

Number of goals scored after 55 matches, in each season since the Premiership began



Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Neglected winger regains old dash

One of the key characters in Newcastle's win over Barcelona was grasping a second chance

MARC ASPLAND

Gillespie favours dark glasses, but his view of the world through them is much brighter now that his gambling habit has been tackled and he has once more become a player to be reckoned with

Sometimes, it looks as though he has been chased all his life. His eyes are sunken beneath those mirror sunglasses. His fine, high cheekbones give him a vulnerable, hunted look that makes the crowd love him. He has had his share of pursuers in these, the fledgeling days of his career, people who have sought to slow him down with controversies. But in the space of 90 fizzing minutes on Wednesday night, Keith Gillespie outstripped them all.

Newcastle's 3-2 win over Barcelona at St James' Park might have been a personal triumph for the hat-trick hero, Faustino Asprilla, but it was a rite of passage for Gillespie, the relighting of a fire that had started amid the great conflagration of Kevin Keegan's wonderfully extravagant assault on the championship in the 1995-96 Premiership season but which recently had burned down to its embers.

Wednesday night was the night the young Northern Ireland winger seized his second chance after a brief but extravagant addiction to gambling had been given the full blaze of publicity courtesy of an agreed bookmaker.

Gillespie's weakness was the boredom and loneliness of a young man living away from home, boredom that led him to the bookmaker and some prodigious wagers. His friends and far-sighted sponsors, such as the sportswear manufacturer, Adidas, stuck by him and he kicked that habit long ago. His electrifying performance against Barcelona looked like another chapter in a morality tale that is moving towards a happy ending.

Before the first of Newcastle's Champions' League games rescued him, Gillespie, one of the last of the out-and-out wingers, one of those rare players who can take your breath away by outsprinting his full back so comprehensively that his speed becomes a thing of grace and beauty, had only started two of Newcastle's five games this season. The form of Steve Watson at right wing back was making it hard for him to force his way into the team.

But Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, who takes his team to play West Ham United at Upton Park today, picked him as part of a tactical plan that outwitted his opposite number, Louis van Gaal, and Gillespie responded with the best performance of his career. His pace was exhilarating and his crosses, executed as he hooked his right foot round the ball, falling to his right as Trevor Francis used to do, seemed as though they had been guided by laser on to the head of Asprilla.

Those who were there were astonished at the way he embarrassed Sergi, a left back who excelled against England in Euro 96, a defender who is regarded by Bobby Robson as one of the best in the world. Those of us who watched the highlights, clustered round a television set in a room underneath the main stand in Kosice, gasped at the free-flowing simplicity of what he had created.

"It was one of my best games," Gillespie said yesterday. "I had heard a lot about Sergi. People were saying he was one of the best there was so it was good for my confidence to play the way I did against him. A lot of the credit has go to the rest of the lads for the way they played.

"We did not give the ball away cheaply at all and we made it as difficult as possible for them. Everything just seemed to go right on the night for me and for the team as a whole.

"I have not been consistent enough in my play for a long time now but I hope that that is about to change. For most of the Newcastle players involved in it, the game on Wednesday night was the biggest match of their careers and I hope it will be a turning point in mine."

If public opinion on Tyneside counts for anything, Gillespie will get the even break he deserves. People seem to like him instinctively, partly for his honest endeavour on the pitch, partly for his demeanour off it. Despite the brief batch of bad publicity he had last year, he is a quiet young man with a ready smile, a lilting Ulster accent and an open disposition.

In one of the local country house hotels yesterday, the bellboys watched dispassionately as Alessandro Pistone wandered through the lobby and into the car park but when Gillespie sauntered in out of the sunlight, their body language changed and they moved out from behind their desk and pressed his hand into theirs. The barman seemed to know him, too, and they laughed at an aside as he poured him an orange juice and lemonade.

OLIVER HOLT

Gillespie is 22 now but he still has a look of the young George Best, dark hair and slightly pinched, handsome face. Born in Bangor, in Co Down, was labelled the next Best, of course, when he played alongside Nicky Butt, Ryan Giggs and the Neville brothers in the Manchester United team that won the FA Youth Cup in 1992. A bright future at Old Trafford was being predicted for him when Alex Ferguson sold him to Newcastle for £1 million in January 1995 as part of the deal that took Andy Cole to Manchester.

At first, everything went better than he could have expected. A fringe player at United with limited first team opportunities, he was established in the Newcastle first team by the start of the 1995-96 season as Keegan's team left United trailing in the race for the title. With David Ginola on the left wing and Gillespie on the right, they supplied Les Ferdinand and Peter Beardsley with a constant supply of ammunition. The trauma of losing Cole was quickly forgotten and the Geordie fans took Gillespie to their hearts.

In the February of that year, though, it all began to unwind. Keegan bought Asprilla from Parma, a signing that left Gillespie out in the cold, destroyed the balance of the team and put Newcastle's championship aspirations on the slide. Then *The Sun* ran a front page exclusive revealing that the young winger had blown more than £60,000 in one week of gambling madness.

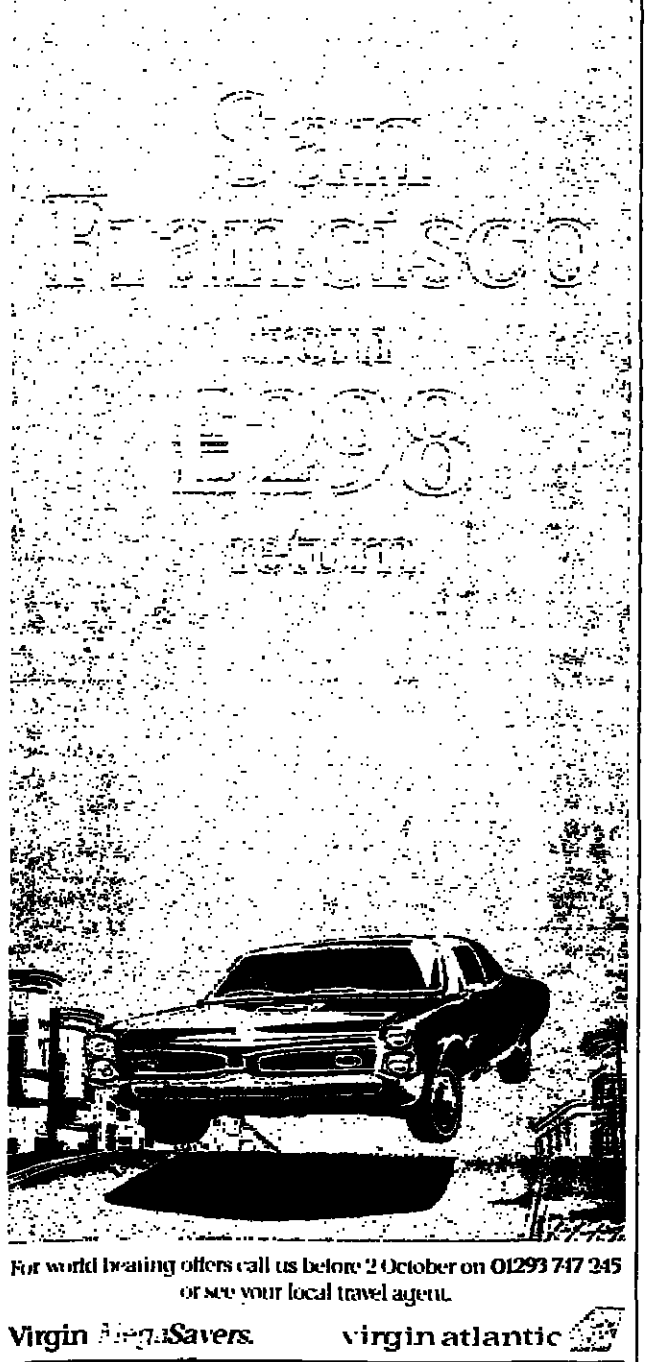
Since then, it all seems to have been an uphill struggle, a battle to regain the momentum that was lost. Last season, he started just 23 Premiership games and scored one goal and he was asked to play in the unfamiliar role of wing-back. This season looked as though it might be going the same way until Gillespie belatedly seized hold of the second chance he has been given and re-established his reputation on Wednesday night.

"The gambling was definitely a boredom thing," Gillespie says. "It is a lot easier for people who are married to go home to their wives or kids or whatever whereas I was going home to nobody. I'd finish training at 12 o'clock and I'd go home and the afternoon would be my own.

Gillespie unmasked: golf is now his preferred recreation

"Everything to do with it was just down to sheer boredom. I didn't really have any mates when I first came up here but I've got round that now. I play a bit of golf and that. When I finished training, I used to just rush home whereas now I'll hang around and have a bit of lunch first. Generally, I just forgot about the gambling. It's hard at first. You're going home and you think 'I've got nothing to do' but it's a good job and a nice life and that's the way I look at it. I'm so much happier about everything now. I'm just loving my football and using my pace. I know that nine times out of ten, if I knock a ball past a full back I'm going to get there first and I'm going to get across him. It's the most important thing for a winger. If I know I'm quicker than the full back, I've got him already."

They are chasing Keith Gillespie again now and this time he is revelling in it.



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Cooper resigned to his fate

By Russell Kempson

FEW tried harder than Colin Cooper to arrest Nottingham Forest's slide out of the FA Carling Premiership last season. He missed only two matches, one because of suspension, but his efforts were in vain. Now, only four months on, he is no longer wanted at the City Ground.

Even during the summer, when he signed a new contract, and then on the eve of the season, when he was given the captaincy after Stuart Pearce's departure to Newcastle United, Cooper believed that all was well. He was looking forward to the new campaign, albeit in the Nationwide League first division, and to playing a key role in Forest's swift return to the Premiership.

However, after sustaining a leg injury in a pre-season game against Leeds United, his troubles began. He missed Forest's impressive start — they won their opening six league and cup matches — and only gradually regained his fitness. Though he is now available again, he has yet to be given a place even among the substitutes and is unlikely to figure in the plans of Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, for the home game against Portsmouth this afternoon.

"It meant so much to me when I was asked to take over the captain's armband from Stuart," Cooper, 30, said yesterday. "I was so proud and went into the season determined to do everything possible to make my time as skipper as successful as possible. The leg injury set me back and now I have to concede that I'm no longer in Forest's plans. It hurts, but that's the way it is."

Cooper, who joined Forest from Middlesbrough four years ago, has already attracted the interest of Everton, West Ham United and Sheffield Wednesday. Bassett, whose side has not won in four league and cup matches, will be looking for about £2.5 million for the former England central defender, who won two full caps.

Bruce Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool goalkeeper, will embark on the next chapter of his colourful career if, as expected, he makes his debut for Oxford United against Sheffield United at the Manor Ground today. On Thursday, Grobbelaar and Hans Segers, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, were charged by the Football Association with breaching FA rules on betting.

As Grobbelaar, 39, arrived for training yesterday, he declined to talk about the charges. "I have no comment to make," he said. Oxford have secured his services on a match-to-match basis.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, the unsettled Middlesbrough striker, has promised to return to the club after failing to agree a move to AC Milan. He is due to arrive back on Teesside next week.

Celtic count their blessings

By a Correspondent

SUCCESS can sometimes be a burden in football as much as a boon. Celtic may have cursed their defeat in the Scottish Cup semi-finals last season but they may now be reflecting, as they look at the example of Kilmarnock, that the profits of such a triumph are double-edged.

The Scottish Cup winners will not face Dunfermline at East End Park until tomorrow, the fixture being put back 24 hours to allow Kilmarnock time to recover from their 3-1 Cup Winners' Cup defeat in Nice on Thursday.

It had been Celtic's problems in juggling European and domestic commitments two seasons ago, when they competed in the Cup Winners' Cup, that smoothed the way for Kilmarnock's temporary respite. Then, Celtic were forced to fulfil their Bell's Scottish League premier division obligations on a Saturday, fewer than 36 hours after stepping off a plane. It proved costly. Not surprisingly, trips to far-flung Georgia and a five-hour delay at Charles de Gaulle airport, after meeting Paris Saint-Germain, left a heavy price to pay in trying to ease Thursday out of the system in time for Saturday.

Celtic found little sympathy from the Scottish Football Association in moving league fixtures back. Ultimately, they lost the championship to Rangers by a margin of four points, the sum total of the two disappointing draws that they achieved after their Cup Winners' Cup exertions.

Then, as now, the pursuit of the title is Celtic's principal concern and their coach, Wim Jansen, must be thankful that his side's involvement in the Uefa Cup allows them a greater degree of recovery. Even allowing for the after-effects of their busy and adventurous performance in the 2-2 draw against Liverpool on Tuesday, Jansen's players will be fully refreshed for the visit of Aberdeen to Celtic Park today.

Celtic have recovered from the two defeats that opened their league campaign to position themselves just behind their less-than-assured targets, Rangers. Their cause was aided by a 3-3 draw earned by Aberdeen at Ibrox last week, but now Celtic must avoid a similar fate if they are to prove they have genuine championship credentials.

Rangers visit St Johnstone with criticism ringing in their ears after another night of disappointment in Europe, this time a defeat by opponents Strasbourg in the Uefa Cup, that left their midfield player, Stuart McCall, complaining that the sprit at Ibrox is not what it once was.

Tomas Brolin, Leeds United's out-of-favour Sweden international, is expected to sign for Heart of Midlothian on loan and play against Dundee United at Tynecastle.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Why players would be better off concentrating on the training pitch and not the sports psychologist's couch

Therapy? It's all in the mind

BRIAN GLANVILLE

It did not need a psychoanalyst to determine that Ravanelli's move from Turin to Teesside was always likely to end in tears

"When I hear the word culture," Goering said, "I reach for my revolver." I have the same reaction when I hear of sports psychologists, who seem increasingly in vogue. No disrespect to psychoanalysis, however unfashionable it may lately have become, but it is hard to imagine any leading psychoanalyst *standing up at the* British Association meeting last week, as Dr George Sik did, and making scarcely veiled assessments of Gareth Southgate and Stan Collymore.

Collymore appeared to be stigmatised as the kind of player "tense and sensitive to criticism, lazy and unwilling to take part in tough, physical exercise". The player was even said to have a "glamorous girlfriend". Collymore went on to have a dreadful game for Aston Villa against Bordeaux.

As for Southgate, Dr Sik suggested that, had he been consulted, this was the last player that he would have *recommended to take that* penalty in the European championship semi-final against Germany; a player "said to see himself as pessimistic and slow to make decisions. But because he was team-spirited, he was likely to volunteer to take penalties". And, so we are to believe, miss them.

What, though, of Stuart Pearce, that gung-ho competitor who missed from the spot against Germany in Turin in the 1990 World Cup? What of such different personalities as Roberto Baggio, the fantasist, and Franco Baresi, the indomitable warrior, who missed penalties in the 1994 World Cup final?

We have also heard how the Derby County sports psychologist, Bill Beswick, helped Chris Powell to score his first goal for the club, against Everton last Saturday. "He's been telling me it's not just my job to make *goals but to start taking* more responsibility myself," Powell said. Jim Smith, the experienced Derby manager, is no doubt advising Beswick on the niceties of the Oedipus complex.

Could a sports psychologist, could any kind of psychologist, help that emotional fellow, Fabrizio Ravanelli, who is now about to leave Middlesbrough, to decide where he should hardly have gone in the first place?

Juventus got rid of him, to his despair, because their manager, Marcello Lippi, was sick of being told to go to hell every time he substituted him. Ravanelli, caught on the emotional rebound, was summoned to Turin, impressed by Bryan Robson, seduced by the reported £42,000 a week that he would earn and joined a club that had won nothing in its 120 years but the Amateur Cup twice, in the last century. *What followed, followed:* public contempt for training *methods*, clashes with colleagues, the excesses of a vulnerable, impetuous, insecure man, however accomplished a footballer.

It surely should not have needed any sports psychologist to have warned Robson about all that. The first of this breed I met was at the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. Brazil, disappointed by their failings at the previous two tournaments, had appointed him in the hope that he might help their less sophisticated players. When Brazil had thrashed Sweden in the final, he helped the players to carry the Swedish flag around the pitch. Football's finest psychologists, though, have surely been its great managers. Between the wars, Herbert Chapman, of Arsenal, and Vittorio Pozzo, coach of *the Italy national team*, were supreme.

Chapman, needing a new right back, summoned George Male, then a young wing half, into his office. *By the time that* he came out, Male said, he was convinced not only that he could play right back, but also that he could be the best in the world. He won 19 caps for England.

Wily Pozzo, whenever faced with two players who had quarrelled in a league match, would always put them in the same hotel room. "Well, cannibals, have you eaten each other yet?" he would ask the next day. Shamefaced muttering would ensue; the players had been reconciled.

Dr *Sik* has also just co-authored a book, *In Ma Head Son* (Headline, £15.99), with a ludicrous subtitle, "The footballer's mind revealed." However, the footballer in question is Pat *Nevin, the former Scot*land winger, who is far too bright, original and objective to be depicted as an average player.

Nevin, Dr Sik modestly *points out, did not need an in*terlocutor, and it is a pity that he got one. Nevin could have written a fascinating diary or an unusual autobiography. Instead, Dr Sik, who says he has tried to do *what another psychologist* successfully did with John Cleese, gets into the act *ad nauseam*. No diary, just a dialogue, in which Dr Sik's role is that of running *interference*.

Boris carrying can for failure

Off the line

by **Russell Kempson**

POOR old Boris Yeltsin, the President of Russia. Not only have a few of his nuclear warheads gone missing, but he is being blamed for his country's failure to qualify automatically for the World Cup *finals* in France next year. The 1-0 defeat against Bulgaria last week sentenced Russia to a play-off, which was too much for *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, the *Moscow daily*. "Soccer is too serious for 11 cool guys with fat-cat faces to spoil the mood of at least half the country," it ranted. "We can offer this free piece of advice to any future *candidate for the* national presidency — he would have no competition if by some miracle he could save Russian football from the abyss."

☐ Continuing the World Cup theme, which country fielded the following side in its qualifying tie last week? (Clue: it was not Armenia.) 1, Sejus Givenas; 2, Garis Kelis; 3, *Denisas Irvinas*; 4, Janas Hartas; 5, Kenas Kuninghamas; 6, Rojus Kinas; 7, Dzeisonas Makaryris (sub: Filas Babas, 83min); 8, Alanas Makloughlinas; 9, Deividas *Konolis (sub: Garis Brynas*, 90); 10, Tonis Kaskarinas; 11, Styvas Stauntonas. *Answer at foot of column.*

Sitting target

David Elleray, doyen of the FA Carling Premiership referees, let the train take the strain on his way to officiating in Manchester United's match against West Ham United at Old Trafford last Saturday. Unfortunately, "Lord David", as he is known by his Premiership colleagues, had the uncomfortable misfortune, because of overcrowding, of having to sit on his kitbag in a carriage corridor. It was only after two hours, when the seats emptied at Stoke, that he was able to continue his journey in a more dignified manner.

Forever young

Juan Santisteban, the Spain coach, was not exactly brimming over with praise for Ghana, his side's conquerors in the semi-finals of the world under-17 championships in *Egypt this week. After the 2-1* defeat, Santisteban claimed: "I can recognise at least eight of their players as members of the Ghana team in the 1991 under-17 championship." On that occasion, strangely, Ghana beat Spain in the final.

Name-dropping

Football fans the world over love to have their favourite player's name on the back of their replica shirt. One fed-up Tottenham Hotspur and Darren Anderton supporter has, rather wittily, had the word "Injured" printed on his No 9 jersey. It is not known how much demand there has been for Noises, who plays for Tenerife, but curiously there have been no takers from the English-based fans of the Argentinian, Turdo.

Beck's takeaway

John Beck, the Lincoln City manager, is known to favour the more unorthodox side of life — cold showers to inspire his players, etc — so it is no surprise that he has again bucked the trend by allowing supporters on to the team coach for away games. For £30 to £80, and the signing of an agreement guaranteeing good behaviour, fans can travel with their heroes. "Anyway, Robbo, talk me through that missed penalty . . ."

Answer to World Cup conundrum: Ireland, courtesy of the native translation by their Lithuanian hosts: 1, Shay Given; 2, Gary Kelly; 3, Denis *Irwin*; 4, Ian Harte; 5, *Kenny* Cunningham; 6, Roy Keane; 7, Jason McAteer (sub: Phil Babb); 8, Alan McLoughlin; 9, David Connolly (sub: Gary Breen); 10, Tony Cascarino; 11, *Steve Staunton.*

New world on old foundations

Mark Hodkinson looks at the way Barnsley have changed for the better

LIFE AT THE TOP

Barnsley emerge to start their great Premiership adventure

The *blinds* are half-drawn, so we can see the day see-saw between *summer* and autumn. A battered car pulls up and a youth steps out. He is wearing a faded T-shirt and long, straggly hair.

A middle-aged woman *walks her* dog across the car park and fastens another button on her anorak as the wind picks up again. Life passes by, quietly, indifferent to the football ground it skirts.

Chris Patzelt — neat, light-coloured suit and Barnsley club tie — stares out across the car park. He smiles, breathes in the tranquility and remembers the day when bedlam came to *Barnsley*.

It was Saturday, May 17. Pocket diaries will reveal that it was a public holiday in Norway; Patzelt, Barnsley FC's assistant secretary, will tell you that it was a public anguish in Barnsley.

Season tickets were available to a select few from May 4, but, on May 17, they went on *sale to supporters* able to produce ticket stubs from ten of last season's home matches. This would seem to embrace a fairly elite group, but more than 3,000 were queueing outside the ground when Patzelt arrived — at 7.30am. "I turned around the corner in my car and thought, 'Good God,' there was nothing else to think really", *he said*.

During the previous evening, supporters had arrived at Oakwell with deckchairs, barbecues, crates of beer and sleeping bags. They were offered special passes for the next day to confirm their position at the front of the queue. They declined the offer; mistrust was in the air.

"They actually wanted to stay at the ground overnight. I think they saw it as all part of the romance of promotion," Patzelt said.

Inevitably, as the deep queue snaked 400 yards around the ground, whispers circulated that tickets were about to run out. Furtive glances were exchanged between *fans who feared the* good ship Barnsley was to set sail without them.

Some waited for up to 14 hours, but, eventually they all received a ticket. Nearly 17,000 were sold in total, providing more revenue for the club than in the whole of last season.

Patzelt is 37 and has spent all his working life in football. He is one of football's unseen, an administrator. He feels the glow of sporting glamour, but it is from a distance. His world is one of fax machines, letters, invoices, safety drills, police inquiries, press inquiries, inquiries about inquiries.

He speaks in the jargon of the trade, of *learning curves*, contingency plans and prospective revenue figures, but he is also what is termed a "football man".

He enjoys the gossip of the game. He knows of former professionals who are now driving instructors and Country and Western singers; he can relate the sequence of scoring in *Barnsley's first* round, first-leg Coca-Cola Cup tie from 1996.

Barnsley have risen from relative obscurity to the FA Carling Premiership because Danny Wilson, their manager, has built a successful team, allied to a solid administrative back-up. "It is down to good management, good skill, a *little bit of luck and a fair* degree of stability. A lot of it has really been common sense," Patzelt said.

The club began planning for life in the Premiership at the turn of the year, when the team maintained their position near the top of the Nationwide League first division. It has created a thousand extra problems, but there has been a rallying call within the club. "We all answer the phones and we stay until the job is finished. There's no real demarcation here," he said.

Barnsley are loyal to the stereotype of much-fabled Yorkshire thriftiness. The impressive East Stand was built for £2.65 million, which is, by today's standards, a good piece of business.

"Other clubs were ringing asking how we got it for that price," Patzelt said, the pride in his voice palpable. "We only do a deal when it is right. We left it on the table for some time and eventually we got what we considered a good deal."

*The administrative team re*ports to a board of directors, none of whom draw money from the club. These are traditional, noble patrons of the game, doyens of local family-run firms, each overseeing a separate branch of the club's functions. They are epitomised by John Dennis, club chairman and owner of a *fruit and vegetable business*.

Barnsley have scant trepidation of their new status. Patzelt can talk a good talk: it is his job after all, but there is a seductive charm in his confidence and it permeates the whole club.

As he speaks, a lorry passes by carrying asphalt. The car park is being expanded, *another change, for the better.*

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Heathrow	—	£50	—	£50	£50	£60	£60
Leeds/Bradford	£60	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nice*	£90	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oslo	£100	£150	—	£150	£150	£160	£160
Paris	£50	£100	£60	£100	£100	£110	£110
Teesside	£60	—	—	—	—	—	—
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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1997

Choice words add to intrigue as move to Jordan is confirmed

Hill tries to repair damaged reputation

From Michael Calvin in Zeltweg, Austria

AS IN all the best fairy-tales, the hero lived happily ever after. Damon Hill posed for the cameras with Eddie Jordan here yesterday morning to complete the formalities of a two-year deal that conventional wisdom suggests is worth £10 million.

The A-1 Ring, site of the Austrian Grand Prix tomorrow, is set in *Sound of Music* territory and the hills were alive with the sound of self-justification. The world champion spoke with special emphasis about "my choice", as if he felt the need to prove that he had been in control of his destiny.

Jordan admitted to a "certain amount of glee" at the confusion sown by the courtship process. He is a natural storyteller, a cross between Dorothy Parker and J. P. Donleavy, and he relished the tale of brokering the deal in a private jet, after Hill had been abandoned at Monza airport by Tom Walkinshaw, his employer at present.

When the film of rumour and innuendo, which clings to Formula One like grime to a bathtub, had been washed away, inconsistencies remained. Although agreement for Hill to partner Ralf Schumacher was reached on September 9, in a meeting at the Weybridge headquarters of Gallahers, the parent company of Jordan's principal sponsor, Benson and Hedges, it is understood that he did not sign his two-year contract for another eight days.

An immediate damage-limitation exercise was required, because Hill considered his reputation had been sullied by the perceived rejection by TWR Arrows and Prost, who issued statements curtailing their interest in him once it became clear that a decision on his future had been reached. Despite acting with the best of intentions, Hill's advisers had been outmanoeuvred.

History is rewritten on a daily basis in the paddock and alliances have the life expectancy of a mayfly. The sport enshrines some of the best traits in human nature, courage, intelligence and individualism, but also some of the worst — duplicity, mendacity and selfishness.

Jordan, who sold Hill his first Formula Three drive in 1985, renewed contact with the world champion at Magny-Cours in late June, when fears that his team would be unable to retain Giancarlo Fisichella next season began to solidify. The pair talked informally, from the British Grand Prix onwards, and Hill met Hirotoshi Honda, supplier of the Mugen Honda engines, at Spa a month ago.

The private plane journey after the Italian Grand Prix at Monza 13 days ago is the stuff of folklore. Walkinshaw, the Arrows owner, left in his executive jet at 4pm — 30 minutes before Hill, who was immediately offered a lift by a pilot whose aircraft had been chartered by GdeZ Capital, a subsidiary Jordan sponsor.

"It was quite bizarre, really," Jordan said. "We didn't know Damon was on board until we climbed in. You could say we hijacked each other. We started talking and by the time we got off his move to us had been more or less finalised."

Hill obeyed convention yesterday, when he was shepherded down the steps of his new team's motorhome to face the obligatory media melee. He made all the right noises as he read from a hand-written statement that seemed to be the product of a corporate mind, rather than his gentle, self-deprecating character.

"I believe that Jordan Grand Prix have proved in 1997 that they are ready to take on the greatest challenge in world motor sport, to win the FIA Formula One world championship," he said. "I know that, together with the formidable ambition of Mugen-Honda, we will make a truly awesome combination. With respect to the teams who showed such interest in retaining my services for next season and beyond, I can only say thank you and I wish you all the best of luck."

Hill is an articulate man, who needs no scriptwriter. He was more revealing in informal circumstances later. "It's a bit far fetched to talk about winning the world championship next year," he said. This did not concur with his new employer's insistence that "we have hired him to win races and to win the championship. There is no other reason."

FRITZ MUELLER

Hill, right, appears to be in tune with his new employer, Jordan, at their press conference yesterday

Jordan could be forgiven the excesses of his enthusiasm, though. Unlike many in the pit-lane, he has never succumbed to self-importance. As Hill said: "His team has the reputation of being a fun team, but they are very serious about their racing. I feel that's in keeping with the real spirit of Formula One, something that has been lost in the past few years."

The signing of Hill represents a pivotal moment in the development of Jordan Grand Prix, which almost went out of business at the end of 1991 with debts of $7 million. "When the writs were flying about at that time, I discovered the meaning of distress, rather than mere stress," Jordan said.

He was rejected by Hill last year, but could not afford the luxury of bearing a grudge. "I don't think I've had to eat humble pie in any way," he said. "Last year we were not financially in a position to do a deal with Damon. This year we are. We desperately needed his experience. If we cannot win races next year it will be a very, very bitter blow."

Hill will have equal status with the younger Schumacher, who acknowledged: "Damon brings something we do not have. He knows how to win races." Hill's dedication, aligned to his reputation as a development driver, will be especially valuable next year, when far-reaching rule changes promise to establish an unusually level playing field.

Inevitably, the Hill hype overshadowed the final free practice session for the race tomorrow, which was dominated by the Williams pair, Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Jacques Villeneuve. Hill was eleventh quickest, but was stranded out on the track with a suspected pump failure. He was given a lift back to the pits on a marshal's motorcycle.

That, in a way, was rather appropriate. You see, in Formula One, they love to take people for a ride.

PRACTICE AT THE A-1 RING

TIMES: 1, H-H Frentzen (Ger, Williams-Renault) 1min 11.527sec; 2, J Villeneuve (Can, Williams-Renault) 1:11.638; 3, R Barrichello (Br, Stewart-Ford) 1:11.798; 4, G Fisichella (It, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:11.899; 5, M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:11.902; 6, D Coulthard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:11.967; 7, M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:12.265; 8, G Berger (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 1:12.383; 9, P Diniz (Br, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:12.519; 10, E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1:12.548; 11, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:12.614; 12, J Herbert (GB, Sauber-Petronas) 1:12.751; 13, J Alesi (Fr, Benetton-Renault) 1:12.820; 14, J Trulli (It, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:12.935; 15, G Morbidelli (It, Sauber-Petronas) 1:12.966; 16, R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:13.041; 17, S Nakano (Japan, Prost Mugen-Honda) 1:13.280; 18, J Magnussen (Den, Stewart-Ford) 1:13.286; 19, U Katayama (Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:13.348; 20, M Salo (Fin, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:14.079; 21, J Verstappen (Holl, Tyrrell-Ford) 1:14.188; 22, T Marques (Br, Minardi-Hart) 1:14.739

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS (after thirteen races): Drivers: 1, M Schumacher 67pts; 2, Villeneuve 57; 3, Alesi 28; 4, Frentzen 27; 5, Coulthard 24; 6, Berger 21; 7, Irvine 18; 8, Fisichella 17; 9, O Panis (Fr, Prost Mugen-Honda) 15; 10, Hakkinen and Herbert 14; 12, R Schumacher 11; 13, Hill 7; 14, Barrichello 6; 15, A Wurz (Austria, Benetton-Renault) 4; 16, Trulli 3; 17 equal, Salo and Nakano 2; 18, N Larini (It, Sauber-Petronas) 1. Constructors: 1, Ferrari 85pts; 2, Williams-Renault 84; 3, Benetton-Renault 53; 4, McLaren-Mercedes 38; 5, Jordan-Peugeot 28; 6, Prost Mugen-Honda 20; 7, Sauber-Petronas 15; 8, Arrows-Yamaha 7; 9, Stewart-Ford 6; 10, Tyrrell-Ford 2.

GRANDS PRIX TO COME: Tomorrow: Austrian (A-1 Ring). Sept 28: Luxembourg (Nürburgring). Oct 12: Japanese (Suzuka). Oct 26: European (Jerez)

Maynard makes maximum impact on title race

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

TAUNTON (second day of four): Glamorgan, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 101 runs ahead of Somerset

GLAMORGAN attacked during the brief spell of cricket available to them yesterday with the intensity of a team refusing to allow the imponderables of weather and opposition to stand between them and their destiny. They thrashed 194 runs in 33 overs and, with the county championship ending tomorrow, the Welsh are now favoured to win it for the first time in 28 years.

While Kent were delayed by a spirited Surrey revival at Canterbury, where the game is evenly balanced, Glamorgan's frustrations were caused by steady rain. Play resumed at 3.50pm, in light that would normally have been deemed unplayable, but Matthew Maynard and Hugh Morris batted as if it was midsummer with the local village side doing the bowling.

Scoring at seven runs an over, they took their third-wicket stand to 235, made in less than three hours, with sustained, electrifying strokeplay. Both made memorable centuries and Morris, who may retire after this match if a prestigious coaching job comes his way, remained to supervise the advance towards 350.

With maximum bonus points banked, three more than Kent have gained, Glamorgan lead the table by four points. A draw may suffice, but they have two days remaining to force the victory that would guarantee the title that there positive, all-round cricket deserves. Maynard has too often squandered the potential of his immense talent through impetuosity, but the captaincy may have been the making of him and this was surely the most fulfilling innings of his career. Yesterday he moved from 76 to 100 off only 18 balls.

When he was finally caught at slip off Shine, he had faced only 117 balls and struck 118 out of 142 in boundaries.

Cottey had no time to adjust to the gloom before he, too, was taken at slip but Croft arrived to give stoical support.

Under the skin of sport

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Gillespie hits his stride
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Match-by-match guide to the Premiership
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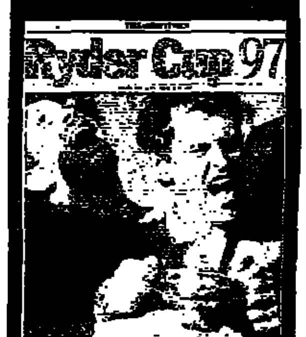
THE TIMES ON MONDAY



16-page supplement on the world's greatest golf competition

FA considers action after 'bung' inquiry

By John Goodbody

THE Football Association is today considering whether to charge leading figures in the national game after publication of the four-year "bung" inquiry has revealed "unacceptable and unsavoury activities" in transfer dealings.

The FA said that it was "bound to be deeply concerned" about some of the contents of the 350-page report of the Premier League. The inquiry was launched after a High Court case in June 1993, in which Alan Sugar, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, said that he had been told that Brian Clough, the former Nottingham Forest manager, "likes a bung". A three-man panel has examined 10,200 pages of evidence and interviewed 66 witnesses in an investigation that may eventually cost £1 million. Police and income tax officials have shown interest in the inquiry.

Officials of Nottingham Forest are particularly criticised by the panel, which consisted of Robert Reid QC, Rick Parry, the former chief executive of the Premier League, and Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager.

The panel said that the regulations at the time that the investigation was set up "created a cult of dishonesty under which many transfers took place with the assistance of agents/intermediaries. Those agents/intermediaries were paid for their services but, in order to get paid, they produced invoices that falsely recorded the work undertaken. The inquiry saw several examples of this." The Premier League has subsequently made changes to the transfer system with new rules on the licensing and regulation of agents, the conduct of deals, the role of managers and independent auditing.

The game's integrity was dealt a severe blow in July 1995, when George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, now with Leeds United, was banned from football activities for a year for receiving £425,500 from Rune Hauge, a Norwegian agent. Graham has always insisted that the payments were "unsolicited gifts", although the FA commission was satisfied that he must have known that they were connected with the transfers of two Scandinavian players to Arsenal.

The inquiry looked at another transfer involving Hauge. This was the move of Alf Inge Haaland, from Byrne FK, Norway, to Nottingham Forest in 1992, and concludes that "the irresistible inference" is that Ronnie Fenton, the Forest assistant manager, and Hauge "had agreed that, out of the monies received by Hauge from the transfer, a substantial sum would be paid to Fenton."

Fenton, who is now coaching with Floriana, of Malta, is also named in the deals that took Anthony Loughlan and Neil Lyne from Leicester City to Forest in 1989. The inquiry concluded that "there is direct evidence of a fraudulent arrangement by which Clough and/or Fenton acquired a substantial sum of money from the two transfers".

The report considered the responses it received from Paul White, the Forest secretary, and others involved in the transfer as "unreliable, partial and deliberately misleading."

In examining the move of Thorvaldur Orlygsson from Akureyrar, of Iceland, to Forest in 1989, the inquiry said it was concerned by the fact that the transfer agreement was signed by an "unauthorised person [Fenton]; the inconsistency concerning the timing of the increase of the transfer fee of the player from £150,000 to £174,000; and "the persistence of the stories that Fenton collected a substantial cash payments from the transaction."

Irving Korn, the Nottingham Forest chairman, said yesterday: "Our books are clean. There is nothing missing from Nottingham Forest money-wise. I will refute those criticisms about Paul White, but I do not want to say any more until I have studied the report."

THE SHERINGHAM TRANSFER

Clough: "no part in deal"

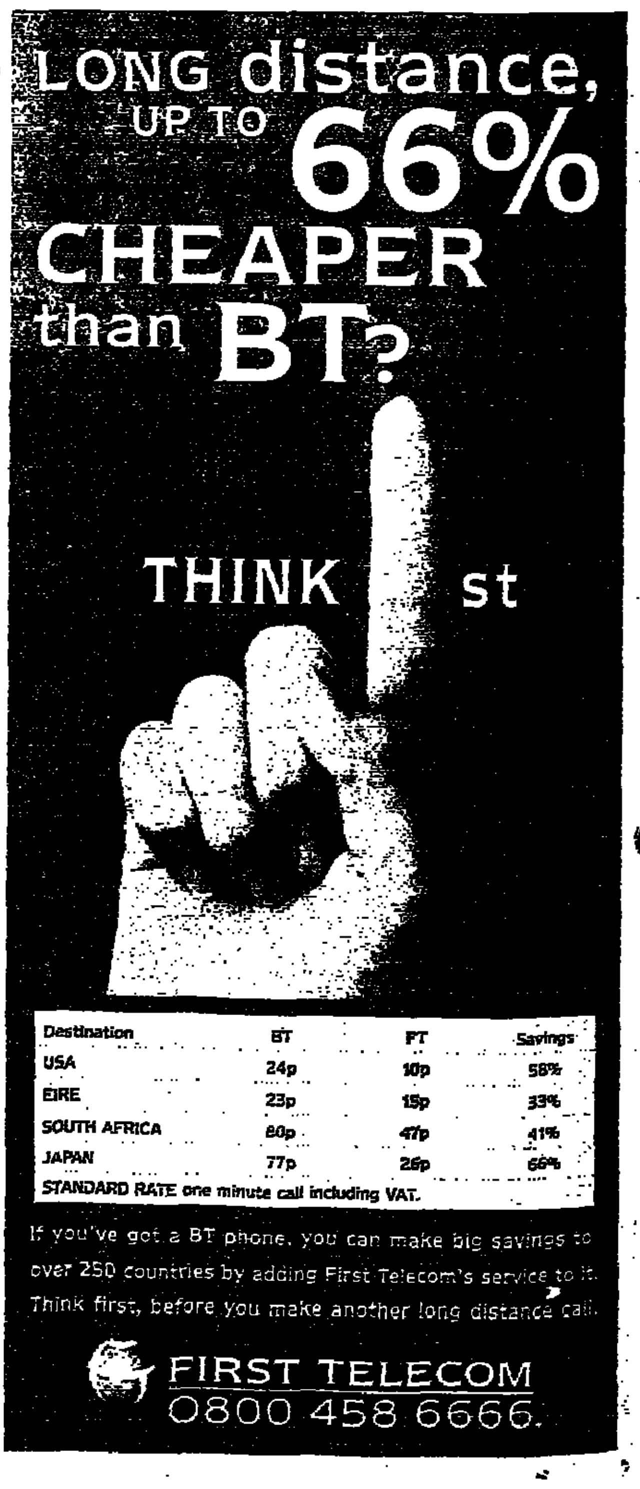
THE £2.1 million transfer of Teddy Sheringham from Nottingham Forest to Tottenham Hotspur in 1992 was one of the chief topics to be investigated by the inquiry. In 1993, Alan Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, alleged in the High Court that Brian Clough, then the Forest manager, wanted money for himself when transferring players.

A central role was played by Frank McLintock, the former Arsenal player, who was Sheringham's agent and who acted as a go-between in the deal with Terry Venables, then chief executive of Tottenham. The inquiry concludes that several witnesses "attempted deliberately to mislead the inquiry in their evidence" but points out that Clough played little or no part in the negotiations. The inquiry did not find that McLintock was culpable in his role.

Tottenham secretly paid £58,750 to First Wave, McLintock's agency, with £8,750 subsequently being returned to the club. The inquiry said: "We are satisfied that neither Venables nor anyone else at Tottenham or elsewhere had any intention of misappropriating that money following its return to the club."

However, the inquiry concluded: "In our view, Venables knew of the cash payment long before it was referred to on the *Panorama* programme" (screened in 1993). The inquiry alleged that Venables made "a deliberate attempt to distance himself from the payment in cash made to McLintock." The inquiry added: "Whilst the conduct of Mr Venables cannot be justified ... in our view, he regarded the obtaining of Sheringham's services as being essential. He did not ... intend to make any personal benefit from the payment of £50,000."

Sheringham: recruited



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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1997

THE TIMES
WEEKEND

Drinking is easy, tasting is a skill

Jancis Robinson reveals the secrets of the wine taster's job – one that needs true devotion and stamina

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD FAULKS AT PONT DE LA TOUR RESTAURANT, LONDON

Jancis Robinson recalls the tasting when "we sat down at about noon and rose from the table at one or two next morning. Sixty-six wines were served with a dozen courses"

The single most extraordinary tasting I have ever been to was in 1986, organised by Hardy Rodenstock, a leading German collector and pop group promoter who has devoted much of his life and fortune to seeking out some of the finest wines in the world.

I'd met Rodenstock, in June that year at Mouton, where we tasted one of his "Thomas Jefferson bottles",' bought by America's third and most wine-*friendly president. The* collection comprises 1787s and 1784s from the 18th-century precursors of Lafite, Margaux, Mouton and Yquem.

In December, 1985, Christie's sold one a bottle of Lafite 1787 for what is still a world record price, £105,000, to the late Malcolm Forbes. This would have worked out at about £15,000 a glass, had anyone actually drunk the wine, but Forbes chose to put the famous bottle on a suitably antique table in his Jefferson Museum, by a model of the great man.

The bottle stayed there for many months, admired as what must be presumed to be the world's greatest and certainly most valuable wine, until someone noticed that the heat generated by a nearby spotlight had shrivelled the cork, which had dropped into the wine, thereby allowing it to spoil under the full force of oxygen.

Thus did the world's most expensive bottle of wine become the world's most expensive bottle of vinegar.

Rodenstock had already tried one of his ancient Yquems but the tasting I attended was to be the first time a bottle of red wine from his Jefferson collection would be tasted. The flask-shaped Jefferson bottle, Branne Mouton 1787, had been shipped in six weeks previously to allow it to stand upright before opening and encourage all the heavy sediment one would expect to develop after all those years in bottle to fall to the bottom. This posed a problem for the people at Mouton, because all their cellar staff were trained to put any bottle they saw standing upright on *its side* immediately (for the reason that became all too apparent at the Jefferson Museum), so this historic bottle had to be carefully locked away in the darkest recesses of Baron Philippe de Rothschild's personal cellar.

We all gazed at the bottle *with its thick* wax *turban* over the top before trooping back up into the light to watch the young sommelier put the precious bottle in to a bowl and then start to chip the wax off it. Then we all dashed awkwardly back down the steps with many a cry of "*schnell, schnell*" to where the decanter had been left. The sediment-free wine was now trapped in a reasonably airtight container.

We tasted the wine in a light room overlooking the courtyard, the sommelier cradling the decanter and cleverly managing to share out the wine between so many of us. Just a look at the depth of its treacle-brown colour was enough to elicit a flurry of "*extraordinaires*" from the French contingent.

The pre-Revolution bouquet was reticent at first and then *built up* to a cloud of sweetness hanging over the whole room. The most extraordinary thing about how the wine tasted was its weight and intensity, almost as though it had at some stage in its life been very gently fortified (which it could have been, but none of us was going to give up a drop for the sake of cold-blooded laboratory analysis). Far from a fragile relic, this was a wine with real life and power, the bouquet, amazingly, continuing to blossom in the

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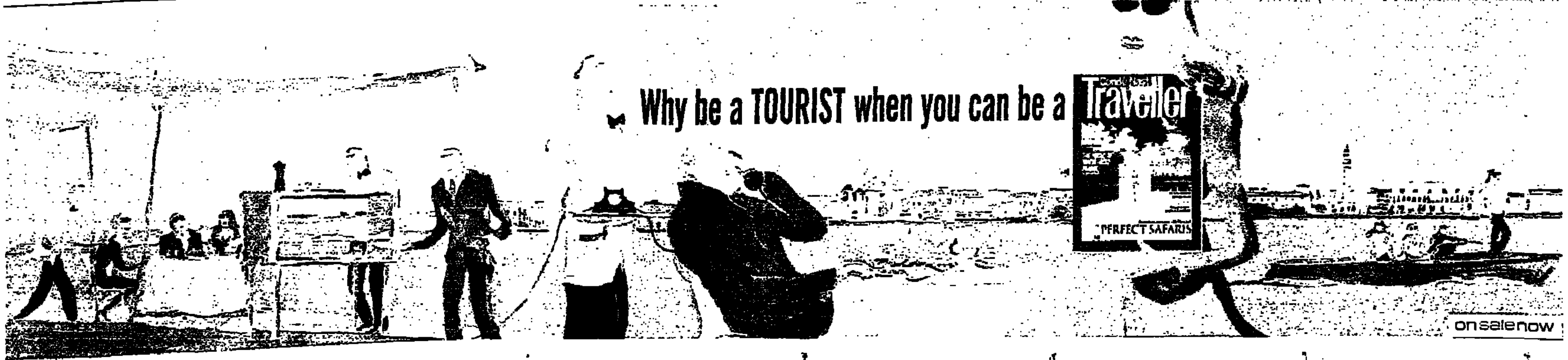
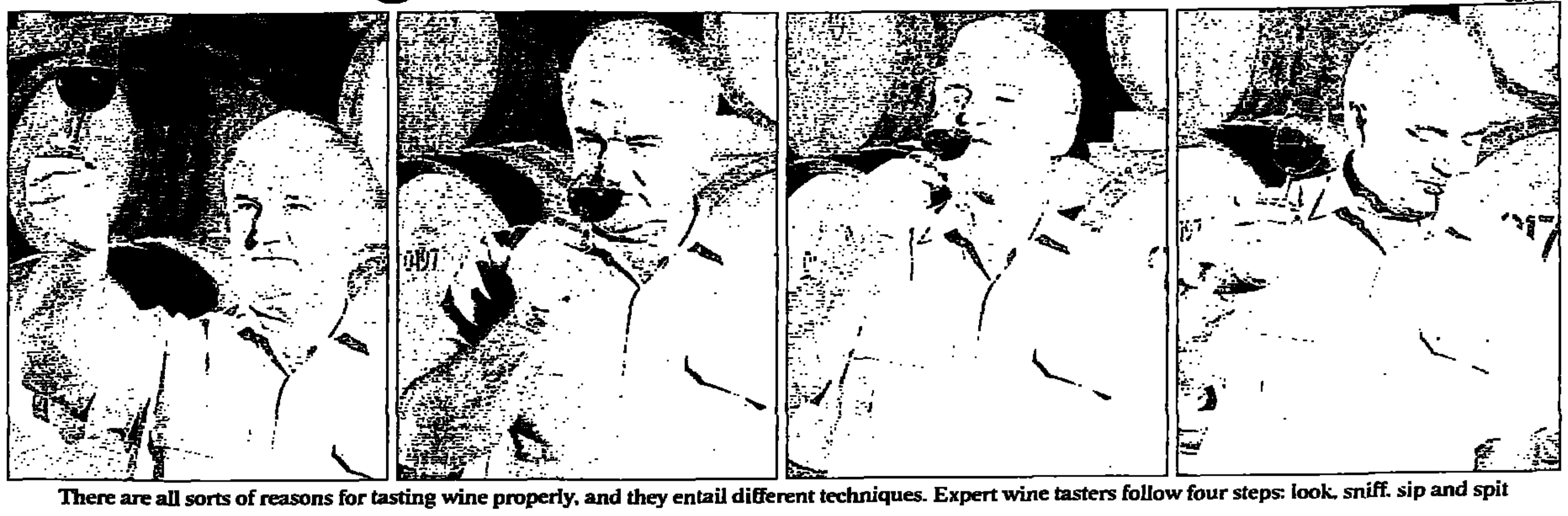


Whether drinking for work or pleasure, it is our sense of smell which tells us what a wine is really like, says **Jancis Robinson**

Lift that glass and taste it on the nose

CEPHAS



There are all sorts of reasons for tasting wine properly, and they entail different techniques. Expert wine tasters follow four steps: look, sniff, sip and spit

Anyone who wants to learn to taste wine properly can, with the sole exception of that small proportion of the population who have a damaged sense of smell (the important sense for wine tasting). All it takes is sufficient interest to want to learn, to concentrate on what the nose and palate communicate and to try to log these sensations so that they can be recognised again.

For filing purposes it can help to attach a description to each sensation but it is only absolutely necessary for those who want a career as a wine commentator. The rest of the population can get by perfectly well with nothing more than grunts or moans.

There are all sorts of different reasons for tasting wine, and they entail different techniques and abilities. The most common sort of wine-tasting (as opposed to just drinking, which anyone can do) is the most admirable one, tasting for the purposes of pure pleasure.

The technique here is the much-derided swirl and sniff, encouraging and then appreciating the wine's volatile flavour messages, followed by a thoughtful mouthful, also swirled around the palate before being swallowed.

The essential questions are: "Is this fresh and clean-smelling?"; "Do I like this?" (so you can pursue, or avoid, other wines like it); "What does the smell remind me of?" (trying to track relationships with other wines); "Are all the essential elements — acidity, sweetness, tannin, alcohol — in balance?" and "Does the flavour linger after swallowing?"

Affirmative answers to the last two questions suggest the wine is good quality and ready to drink. Top-quality wines that are still very young, especially reds, tend to tan the inside of the cheeks like leather, thanks to their heavy charge of tannins, which are precipitated as sediment while the wine matures inside the bottle. Everyday wines tend to leave little trace after they have been swallowed, whereas a mouthful of seriously fine, multi-faceted wine can still titillate the palate even a minute after it was swallowed. I have heard of some French tasters who keep statistical records of this for individual wines.

The greatest difference in tasting technique for work and play is the crucial one for our health: we spit rather than swallow. I suppose I must have felt inhibited about spitting in public once but I cannot remember it. Nowadays it seems natural to cluster with my colleagues round a spittoon, writing notes, gargling and occasionally communicating with eyes, eyebrows and grunts above cheeks bloated with wine samples.

There are other practical differences between tasting for pleasure and for work. When assessing a wine, I want to be able to taste every nuance, so I tend to taste white wines slightly warmer than I would choose to drink them.

The one thing that most fascinated me about wine when I first started out was the science behind tasting, so I soon realised that the warmer a liquid is served, the more of the volatile aroma is given off. And since flavour is best sensed using the nose (whereas texture is sensed in the mouth), it makes sense to err on the side of warmth when assessing a wine. (The obverse is that aggressive chilling will rid a nasty white wine of its unappealing flavour.)

In practice, I tend to taste most wines at comfortable room temperature when I can. The classic wine-tasting scene, in a chilly, dank cellar full of barrels, is also the most uncomfortable. Your toes and your nose feel like ice. The wine tastes like chilled ink and it is too dark to see the colour properly. Such tasting as I do at home I do round our dining table, which is at one end of our kitchen. The conventional belief is that there should be as few distracting smells as possible in a room where wine-tasting takes place.

I am distracted by someone immediately lighting a cigarette while I am trying to taste a wine, but I think it is the sudden, intense smells that cause the problems. Just as people who live in a town producing something particularly smelly do not notice it, I think we all quickly get used to the smell of any room we are in. And in recognition of other tasters' sensibilities, I try not to wear perfume when I know I am going to be tasting wine with others.

There is no doubt, however, that our own natural aromas are quite powerful enough to be distracting. Someone at a wine-tasting will quite often hand me a glass of wine they find remarkable in some way, encouraging me to "taste [or smell] that". I always try to take the glass from them before raising it to my nose so that I am not distracted by the smell of their hands. Not that my hands and body are any less smelly than anyone else's, but my smell is the one I am used to, the smell I taste through all the time and therefore do not notice.

'The world's costliest wine became the most expensive vinegar'

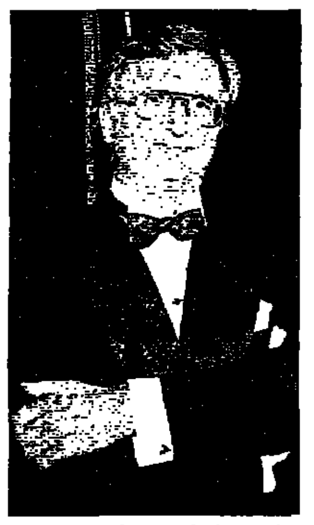
Continued from page 1

glass, evoking "lovely coffee" for Rodenstock, sheer incredulity in me. In fact, the wine kept getting better for a full three-quarters of an hour after it was poured — an achievement even for a young wine.

I was back with the same gang of well-heeled sybarites the following September at the 1986 version of Rodenstock's annual tasting, this time at Château d'Yquem. This was by a very wide margin the most remarkable event of its kind, because if Rodenstock has a speciality in his cellar it is Yquem, the most glorious and long-lived of all sauternes.

We sat down at about noon on a crisp autumn day and rose from the table at one or two the following morning. Sixty-six wines were served with a dozen courses, by chefs shipped in from Germany and Bordeaux. There was not a spittoon in sight, but there was plenty of still spa water (Rodenstock had conducted a blind water tasting to determine which one would suit the wines best).

The wines were of an order of greatness that would move any wine lover. We began with



Hardy Rodenstock: hosted a tasting of the oldest wine

four extremely rare dry German wines, including a bizarre, dry, late-picked 1976 Zeltinger Beernauslese Trocken; four grand *crus* white burgundies from the likes of Domaine Ramonet, and 16 — far too many — vintages of Ygrec, the top-heavy dry wine made at Yquem in less successful years for sweet winemaking. All this was by way of a palate whetter for the first and most important flight of Yquems: the big, almost blowsy 1976, an aggressive 1858, and an 1847 that was the star of the show, so vigorously sweet, round and rich, strutting its stuff right out to the outer reaches of the palate, a slightly *passé* 1811 and, the rarest of all these rarities, a blue-green flask on which had been engraved flowers, leaves, bunches of grapes and the arms of the Sauvage family, which owned Yquem before the Lur-Saluces took over in 1787.

Rodenstock had studied the archives of Yquem and knew that the Russian tsar had bought a barrel of 1847 Yquem for 20,000 gold francs. He'd also heard that there was a cache of tsarist treasures in what was then Leningrad (who does this man consort with?), so he went to work on the hunch that some of this wine might have survived, and, *voilà*, this single ancient bottle, glass already dated at mid-18th century. A wine perhaps 30 years old when our Branne Mouton 1787 had been made. There was a mutter that this was probably the oldest wine ever tasted from bottle.

We fell silent and watched the young sommelier tap gently at the wax seal. There was a squeal of delight and a clap as the cork emerged intact, only to crumble immediately but well away from the wine, which looked from a distance like young claret with its deep reddish colour.

Each table shared one of these glasses of unctuous history, creamy rich with a very slightly metallic edge that indicated it might just be starting to fall apart. This wine did not improve in the glass, it had to be passed round quickly, inhaled and shared like a sacrament.

The 1847 served next was the better wine, but it was probably exactly a century younger.

By 4.30pm, with the autumn light fading, everyone was anxious to stretch their legs outside. But no. The chef looked anxious, tapped a glass and reminded us we must get back to our seats for the last course of the first quarter of our meal: *foie gras* sautéed with freshly peeled grapes, to be washed down by the ten-year-old infant 1976 Yquem.

The second session didn't begin until 6pm. I may have drunk far more than I had ever done previously before sundown, but I don't think I've ever *left* as much wine either.

We'd had lobster and *foie gras* with grapes. With our giant bottles of 1966 red bordeaux — including a jeroboam of robustly mature and healthy Canon and an imperiale of surprisingly well-developed, classic tasting Calon-Ségur (trumping a rather dull jeroboam of Lafite) — we had *cèpes*.

There was a sudden change of mood with the next flight of wines: Rodenstock decided it would be fun to lay on a blind tasting of the finest red bordeaux, ranging in vintage from a 1937 Latour to an 1848 Lafite. All I can tell you is that the 1921 Pétrus and, almost as delicious, the 1921 Cheval Blanc were stunning, as was the 1929 Figeac. The 1858 Mouton (our *bonne bouche* after tasting the 1787 Branne Mouton) and 1848 Lafite were pretty good, the 1878 Rausan Segla less so, like the 1929 Haut-Brion and 1934 Margaux, while the 1928 Trotanoy and 1937 Latour were disappointing.

Château d'Yquem, the setting for one of the longest-ever wine tastings, is home to "the most glorious of all sauternes"

Three tasters failed to identify a single one of these ten wines but, quite frankly, at this stage my palate had lost any edge, it might ever lay claim to.

After a break for aspirin, a truffle flan with an ink-black sauce was served with four more giant bottles of giant red bordeaux. Then something amazing happened. We had all, by any standard, had quite enough to eat and drink. But three more reds were served, with our *Brillat Savarin*, of which the third was sensational. It was so complete, so creamily rich yet perfectly balanced and elegant, with both power and sublety, that it completely revived even my flagging spirits. It was a jeroboam of Mouton 1929, made just seven years after the young Baron Philippe de Rothschild had taken over the property from his aunt. At this time wine was unfashionable in much of cocktail-sipping Europe, and illegal in the United States.

This felt like the final burst of energy that evening, but I was reckoning without the seven sweet wines served with the two sweet courses at the end. A deep ruby, complex, quince-like Wachenheimer Goldbacher Gerümpel Trockenbeerenauslese 1937 was the most reviving elixir one could imagine, lively yet delicate.

There were three more wines from the Lur-Saluces stable, with a 1949 from Yquem's sister property de Fargues as introduction: richly burnished, attractive if slightly rustic in this company, with a bitter note at the end.

And then, our swansong into the rest of our lives, the last wines I would taste before returning to my more usual diet of Coonawarra Cabernet and Sainsbury's Corbières — two of the greatest vintages of Yquem, 1937 and 1921. The 1921 is conventionally the *prima inter pares* dark, brownish gold and fairly deep, already smelling spicily exotic, still hinting at something left unrevealed yet, that night, just starting to dry out slightly.

The raw materials that test the professional wine taster

The 1937 had me completely smitten; so much more youthful and vivacious, absolutely intriguing and lovely yet with riches hidden behind more than seven veils.

You may feel that the tasting notes above hardly do justice to the great wines they attempt to describe. The reason is simple, if ignoble. I was exhausted and in my haste to reach my hotel bed, and oblivion, I mislaid my beautiful red tasting album with all its detailed, if increasingly untidy notes on these miraculous wines. Next morning I sat in the departure lounge of Merignac airport feverishly trying to recall the tasting notes on every wine.

I still have those airport notes. Against the 1953 Pichon Lalande all it says is, "appalling to admit that I have absolutely no recollection of this wine".

Guessing a wine's identity on taste alone is one of the most impressive tricks any professional can perform: it is the defining act of wine expertise.

Wine outsiders are fascinated by it, presumably because it demonstrates skills they have never developed. Wine insiders call it blind tasting, a combination of one-third natural gift and two-thirds application, guided by varying degrees of luck. One would naturally assume that tasting experience and a good memory were the most important elements in blind-tasting, but experience can be a real bind. I have never been as good at identifying wines as I was in the late 1970s when my palate memory (and actual memory) were uncluttered by accumulation. Every new wine made a crystal-clear impression and, since I had experienced so few of these impressions, it was easy to relate everything I tasted to just one of them.

After our first few tasting experiences, as we accumulate more experience, gather more impressions and increasingly discover exceptions to the rules that seemed so simple at first, our poor old palates and memories become increasingly befuddled. This is why we wine professionals make so many mistakes round the dinner table and why our partners tend to be so much better at guessing the wine than we are. It's their uncluttered palate memories.

Happily, although outsiders remember when the professionals get it wrong, insiders seem to remember when you get it right — mainly because they know how difficult it is. Notable feats are discussed widely; the odd bravura performance clings flatteringly to one's reputation for years.

Huge, communal wine-tastings became fashionable in the early Eighties. In 1983, in the space of a few months, I was invited to one giant overview of the 1961 vintage of top red bordeaux, and then another of the 1959, both great years and mature enough to be worth "looking at", as the wine trade euphemism has it.

But the tasting that pushed me to the limits of endurance took place in 1980 when I was invited to taste well over a 100 four-month old beaujolais, from many a cuvée of simple, acid stuff from the flatlands up to the most majestic wines from the best villages, the so-called Beaujolais *crus* such as Morgan, Moulin-à-Vent and Brouilly. Now, it is one thing to taste 100 wines from very different grapes and places — even the standard range of top red bordeaux encompasses merlot and two sorts of cabernet, as well as many different terrains — but it is quite another to douse your palate in more than 100 young gamays all produced within 15 miles of each other.

The ill-fated £105,000 bottle of 1787 Lafite

Nowadays, I often taste more than a 100 wines at a time — particularly when Britain's main retailers hope to please us wine columnists with as many of their lines as possible. This is much less demanding than tasting 100 beaujolais of the same vintage.

All sorts of external factors can affect both tasting ability and how one feels afterwards, as well as the important internal factor, one's mood. You need to be willing to concentrate to taste well: drinking is easy but tasting is a skill. I remember one blind tasting, organised when I as about to go and choose my wedding dress, and I just couldn't muster my tasting faculties at all.

The weather, and in particular the atmospheric pressure, has a huge effect on tasting. On a muggy or damp day, you feel more sluggish and the volatile smell messages are much less ready to leave the glass and soar up your nose. On a bright, crisp day, on the other hand, everything — including smells, flavours and the senses — seems much sharper and more intense.

Over the years I have devised my own simple pleasure meter for tastings of grand wines. If most tasters approach the table with a smile, then I'm sure to enjoy it. If, on the other hand, most of them look gloomy and suspicious, then this is not a tasting for me. And now that I often lead wine-tastings, I try to remind amateurs that the point of wine is to give pleasure and that they should approach the wines with that in mind.

I think many amateurs are wary of wine-tastings, feeling almost that it is they who are on trial rather than the wines. The ideal tasting squeezes the most pleasure out of every wine and every taster.

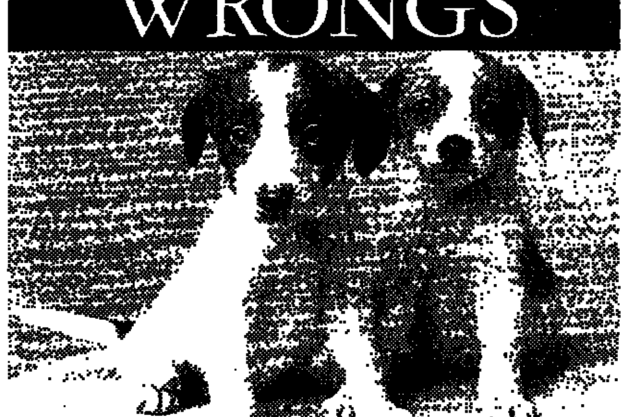
● *Extracted from* Confessions of a Wine Lover, *by Jancis Robinson, to be published by Viking at £17.99 on October 13.*

© Jancis Robinson, 1997

TASTE WINE WITH JANCIS ROBINSON

READERS are invited to an evening of wine and words with Jancis Robinson at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park in London — sister hotel of the Oriental, Bangkok, and the Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong — on Tuesday, November 11 at 7.30am, with wines supplied by Oddbins.

Tickets, which cost £15 (including a reduction of £2 on Robinson's new book), can be ordered on 0171-467-1613; fax: 0171-467-1690; e-mail:order@gower.dillons.org.uk



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THE BLUE CROSS

هكذا من الاصل

Boom is back with a vengeance

As house prices soar again in the capital, there's money to be made, says

Tom Rowland

DES JENSON

Tom Rowland stretches out in a "broom closet" flat similar to the one that changed hands recently for £42,000. Property prices in London have been booming, but the trend is not reflected countrywide

According to London estate agents there is a property boom out on the streets. Something of 1980s proportions.

Most buyers seem to agree that if you want to make easy money this year the surest way is not honest toil, or even robbing a bank, but simply to buy a brick box and then sleep in it.

London house prices have been increasing by huge amounts, with true stories of smart houses in the right areas selling for up to twice the agents' estimates this autumn.

Cramped little flats are selling for record sums. That classic indicator of an overheated market, a broom cupboard being sold as a home, resurfaced this week with the 1997 version going for £42,500 to Bridget Konneely a 20-year-old student, who intends to live in a space just 13ft 1in by 6ft, including kitchenette, at the top of a mansion block in Bayswater, west London.

Britain's first 24-hour-a-day estate agency is due to open on Monday when the east London agents Adam Kennedy will offer a round-the-clock service, everything from negotiating over curtains to measuring up your front room, all at 3am if you wish. They say that overseas buyers are keen on the idea and insist it is not a gimmick.

A flat in Ennismore Gardens, a leafy square you could easily mistake for Paris rather than Knightsbridge, sold yesterday for more than twice the first estate agent's estimate of £195,000. The sellers ended up with a choice of eight bidders offering over £400,000. The winning bid was £452,000.

In the smart bit of Wandsworth, in southwest London, detached houses that three years ago you could pick up for £1 million are now selling for up to £2 million say agents.

Much of this sounds like the froth of the 1980s and the immediate suspicion must be that what goes up can as easily come down again, but the similarities with the 1980s are limited.

At the moment there is little evidence that this boom extends much beyond the M25 and isolated parts of the Home Counties. In central London it is driven largely by overseas buyers, and companies looking for flats and houses for investments to rent out.

The Halifax has recently reduced its forecast rise in national average house prices for the year from 7 per cent to 6 per cent. The society explains that, outside London, most of the South East is quieter than it had expected and that, on average, the further West, East or North you go from the capital the quieter it gets.

The exception is prime locations such as central Oxford, Winchester, Cambridge or York, where house-hunters are reporting increasing prices and a shortage of properties. Fine country houses within striking distance of London are also being snapped up.

But a survey from the Royal Bank of Scotland says that the market north of the border is still becalmed with prices up a measly 0.3 per cent in the second quarter of the year.

In terms of the housing market, the north could be a million miles from Bayswater where the broom cupboard sold for £10,000 more than it would have made two years ago. "You would never get planning permission for something this small today," says Gordon Blausten of Bruten & Co, who sold the "cupboard" for its substantial price.

It is not a cupboard — it has a window, and is at the top of an elegant Edwardian house. Nobody has seen inside as the new owner has gone to ground and is not allowing inspections of her new purchase. Instead, Mr Blausten is busy showing off what he says is an equally pokey twin on the floor below, with the consent of its owner.

The little sofa takes up most of the width of the room, and apart from three bookcases and a couple of side tables there is no room for any other furniture.

The kitchen stands behind a limp velvet curtain. There is a pot of low-fat cottage cheese in the tiny fridge. Going for the full fat version in a space this size might be risky. A narrow door to one side of the little sink leads to a mini bathroom. When you sit down on the lavatory your legs bump into the bath.

Very small rooms tend to be depressing if you are stuck in them. The spine of the first book on the shelf behind the little sofa reads "Psyche and Death. Hertzog". The flat also contains the complete works of Jung, pioneer of the inferiority complex.

For her £42,500 Ms Konneely could buy a terrace house with four bedrooms in much of the north of England; or, in rural Scotland, she could snap up an entire smallholding. Meanwhile, the little flat represents a way of being close to the action on a modest budget.

For a fraction of the cost of a full-size flat in Bayswater, she is living in an increasingly trendy area of London: she is bang next door to the relentlessly "desirable" homes of Notting Hill; and she is very close to Hyde Park.

There are lots of small "flop pads" around this patch of north London although this particular one and its downstairs twin are by far the smallest, says Mr Blausten. Curiously, most go to women buyers, because men want more space for their money and will put up with a longer walk to the park and local transport links, he says.

Almost directly across Hyde Park from the broom cupboard is the one-bedroom balcony flat in Ennismore Gardens that sold for more than twice the initial estimate. On the first floor of an elegant townhouse, with just 29 years left to run on the lease, it has has made a mockery of estate agent valuations. One local agent priced it at £190,000 to £205,000; a second at £250,000. It sold for £452,000 after going to sealed bids.

Gary Marsh, head of house price analysis at the Halifax, suggests that the boom is unlike that of the 1980s, however. "In the 1980s, rises in London house prices never reached the levels of the rest of the South East," he says. "London's prices were higher in the first place of course, but we only saw annual increases of around 20 per cent compared with 30 or even 40 per cent in parts of the South East and East Anglia.

"At the moment, London is stronger than anywhere in the South East, while we predict that the national increase in price will be 6-7 per cent over a year, London has gone up 16 per cent.

"London is exceptional. This time round, I can't see there being much of a spillover from the capital to the rest of the country. There simply isn't the growth in earnings around."

The overseas buyers who have helped to fuel increases in London have shown no indication of looking elsewhere. They tend to buy in central London. Winkworths, the estate agents, says that 90 per cent of buyers in Knightsbridge are from overseas.

The London boom does show signs of running out of steam. Agents in all areas report that the rate of price increase is slowing.

According to the Savills index of prime property prices in London there has been a rise of 14 per cent in the first half year to June 1997, and it is forcasting a rise of 20 per cent for the whole year.

"We are expecting the rate of growth to slow, it is unsustainable, but it has already done twice as much in the first half as our forecast for the whole year so it is difficult to be accurate," said Yolande Barnes, head of research for Savills.

The proportion of buyers from the financial services sectors is down, says the agency, from 41 per cent in 1993/4 to 34 per cent now, with uncertainty in world stock markets blamed.

An expected fall in the volume of buyers from the Far East will have an effect on some specific areas and developments but the slack could easily be taken up by domestic demand, which is strong.

London has one factor in common with the rest of the country. All year buyers and agents have been complaining that there is little for sale. This is reflected in the figures for annual sales, with the volume of transactions running at about 1.4 million, compared with 1.7 or 1.8 million in a normal year, and 2.1 million at the top of the boom in 1988.

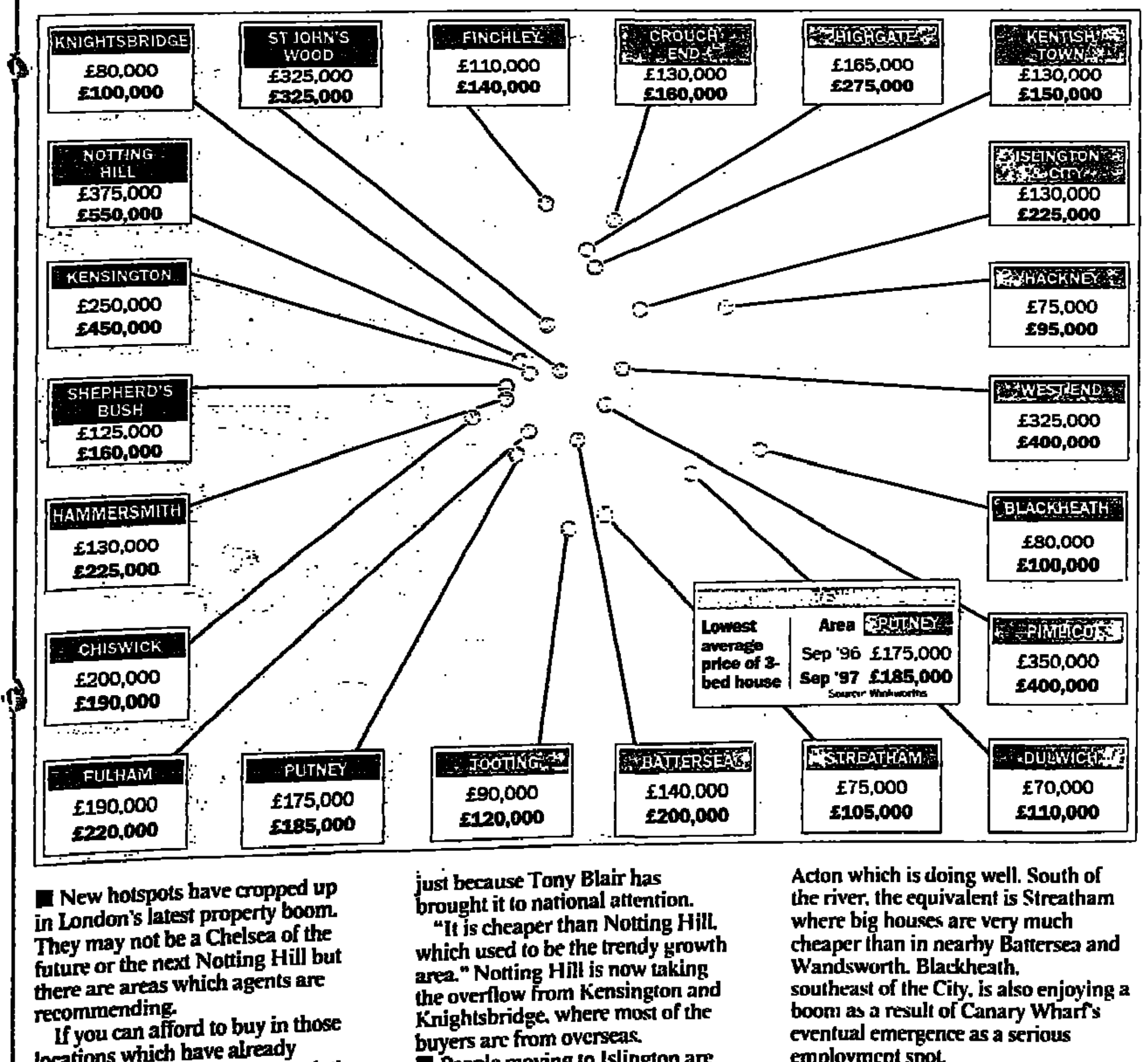
The market shows clear signs of peaking in London and there are now doubts as to whether the ripple of price increases will spread through the country as it did in the 1980s. With the benefit of hindsight, the mad broom cupboard on sale at an inflated price might well be a turning point, and the 24-hour estate agency a folly.

But if every property analyst and estate agent really knew what they were talking about they would have made their fortunes long ago and given up the day job.

GORDON WHITING

A rash of boards, but "good" properties are in short supply

LONDON'S HOTSPOTS HOW YOUR THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE IS ROCKETING



■ New hotspots have cropped up in London's latest property boom. They may not be a Chelsea of the future or the next Notting Hill but there are areas which agents are recommending.

If you can afford to buy in those locations which have already established themselves, so much the better. Even small conversions in the smart areas invariably seem to keep ahead of the rest of the market.

■ Winkworths, which has more offices inside the M25 than any other agent, says more and more people are heading east: "Historically everybody has gone west. Now they are heading in the other direction." Top of their list is Islington, and not just because Tony Blair has brought it to national attention.

"It is cheaper than Notting Hill, which used to be the trendy growth area." Notting Hill is now taking the overflow from Kensington and Knightsbridge, where most of the buyers are from overseas.

■ People moving to Islington are pushing up prices which are already high because of its proximity to the City. This has had a knock-on effect on neighbouring boroughs such as Clerkenwell, Finsbury and Stoke Newington, Kentish Town and Tufnell Park.

■ In the west, those who cannot afford family houses in Notting Hill are shifting out to areas such as Acton which is doing well. South of the river, the equivalent is Streatham where big houses are very much cheaper than in nearby Battersea and Wandsworth. Blackheath, southeast of the City, is also enjoying a boom as a result of Canary Wharf's eventual emergence as a serious employment spot.

■ The prices shown are the lowest estimates derived from sales. Some three-bedroom houses in Knightsbridge have sold for £900,000 this year, for example, while in Crouch End they have reached £260,000. This low average hides all manner of variations.

ANDREW YATES

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When Max Clifford needs sports kit he knows where to go, says **Michael Cable**

Life is one big game

my favourite shop

RICHARD FAULKS

Pose for pictures in a Chelsea soccer strip? The publicist Max Clifford gives a world-weary smile. "If that's what you want, yeah — I don't mind," he shrugs. As it happens, Morden Sports, at Morden in Surrey, is clean out of Chelsea strips. "Big run on them this season," says the proprietor John Hardiman. "Our entire stock of 300 sold out in four hours."

The last time there was this much interest in Chelsea's kit was when it was revealed as the preferred bedroom attire of the soccer-mad ex-minister David Mellor in the kiss 'n' tell story from his mistress Antonia de Sancha, orchestrated by Clifford in his capacity as de Sancha's agent.

"A good sport" is probably not the phrase that Mellor, fellow ex-Tory MP Jerry Hayes or MP Alan Clark, among others, would choose to describe the man behind the tabloid scandals of which they have been victims.

Yet sport is important to 53-year-old Clifford. He was a British water polo international and a Surrey county soccer player in his day and still swims and plays tennis three times a week. "I've always been sporty," he says.

He and Hardiman met playing football as teenagers for their south London side, Raynes Park Rovers, and since Hardiman opened Morden Sports 20 years ago, Clifford has been a regular customer. As well as shopping there for his own sports kit he also takes along a group of neighbourhood children that he has, for years, regularly taken to the local David Lloyd centre to swim and play tennis.

This sort of public-spirited attitude seems at odds with his professional reputation as a master of PR hype, cheque-book journalism and sleaze management. "It's a side of him that people don't know about," says Hardiman. "He does a lot for charity that he never talks about."

This includes giving all his television interview fees and part of his earnings from after-dinner speaking engagements — he is more of a celebrity than many of his clients — to the Children's Cancer Unit of the Royal Marsden Hospital. He also delights in persuading stars such as Muhammad Ali, George Michael, Pat Cash and Mr Blobby to join him in visiting the young patients there. With a grown-up daughter of his own who has been severely disabled since childhood with rheumatoid arthritis, he is especially sensitive to the needs of sick children.

Clifford's high profile as a publicist really dates from his involvement eight years ago in helping to expose the Pamela Bordes scandal — she was a researcher for MPs at Westminster who was said to have had links with high-ranking Libyans, and also to have been working as a call girl. Since then, everybody with a juicy story to sell seems to have been beating a path to the door of his office in New Bond Street, central London.

At the same time, others hire him to keep their names out of the papers. Mohamed Al Fayed approached him unofficially to "keep an eye" on Diana and Dodi. "I think they probably would have married," says Clifford. "I spoke to Dodi on the Thursday before the accident and he told me 'If we are still together at Christmas, we'll be together for the rest of our lives'."

He doesn't think their deaths will have much effect on the way the press treats celebrities. "They say they are going to stop using paparazzi pictures but when somebody comes up with an incredible picture that everyone wants, they will find a way to use it."

Clifford attempts to justify and even dignify some of his own sleazier tabloid coups as a crusade against corruption and hypocrisy in the Establishment generally and the Tory party in particular. "It's not a moral campaign," he says. "Some of the nicest people I know are adulterers. What I object to are the double standards of people who do that sort of thing while at the same time preaching the back-to-basics line."

Having declared war on Tory sleaze, would he pursue New Labour offenders with the same zeal? "If they were corrupt, yes. If I thought they were doing a good job I'd just phone Peter Mandelson and mark their cards, warn him about what they were up to."

He has had death threats, he says. And he knows his phone has been tapped. But he is still happy in his work. "I know I played a part in the last election by highlighting sleaze and I'm proud of that," he says.

Sport, meanwhile is his way of getting away from it all. "There is an honesty in sport that you don't get in the media, and a reality that you don't find in the entertainment world," he says, swinging a tennis racket experimentally. "That's what I love about it."

● *Morden Sports, 6 Crown Parade, Crown Lane, Morden, Surrey (0181-540 8976).*

Max Clifford, in John Hardiman's shop in Surrey (above), says sport gets him "away from it all"

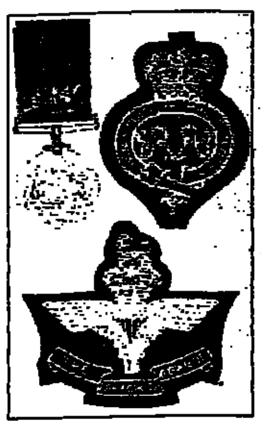
Get kitted out for almost any sport, but don't look for a Chelsea strip — they sold out within hours

BARGAINS

THE first surprise in Eton is that the car park costs only £1 for three hours — leaving £99 and 180 minutes to spend on bargains. After pouncing on a pair of New and Lingwood wooden shoe trees at J. Gane, where all sizes are £19.95, I invested in a cricketer's sun hat at Welsh & Jeffries & Weatherill for £5, and for £6.95 had my beard trimmed at Taylor of Old Bond Street (est.1854). At Asquith's, the first teddy bear shop in Britain, I found a six-inch bear for £1.50, and a bear deckchair for £5.95. At Radnor's Traditional Menswear I got a Van Heusen shirt for £17 and, for £6.50, the lapel badge of my alma mater, the Royal Logistic Corps. On to Cat Out of the Bag, where I found an umbrella with cat motifs for £10.99 and two one-inch pewter cats at £2.50 apiece, and a stoneware cat cord-pull for £4.20.

In the window of John Walls Bespoke Tailoring was a poster for "The Owl and the Pussycat — an evening of nonsense verse" in Windsor Castle on October 8. I bought a ticket for £5. With £16 left I went to Mostly Boxes where Victorian photographs are from £1 to £6. Best of all would be to hit Studio 101 where the ceramic phrenological head is already cheap at £22, and then haggle for it.

COLIN STEEL



Selection of badges from Radnor's, Eton

GADGETS

PLAYING Cowboys and Indians once seemed a fairly innocent pastime, but most parents today flinch at the thought of toy guns. A harmless substitute is Tiger Electronics' **Laser Tag**, which has been purposely designed so as not to resemble a gun.

With the two wrist-mounted units you can play infra-red tag up to a range of 100 feet. Squeezing the trigger brings futuristic laser sounds and the chance to zap any nearby units. Each receiver takes only so many hits before being rendered inactive. Pressing another button when opponents are in range activates a force field to block momentarily the invisible radio beams.

My two young testers deemed Laser Tag the coolest game of the year. It has also never been easier to get them running around outside in the garden even when it is raining.

Laser One is a motorised unit with a real laser in it. Its built-in microphone picks up bass beats in music to generate "dazzling images" projected on to a wall or ceiling. The results are mildly entertaining and the patterns made by the ever-moving laser dot have a good knack of fitting in with all musical moods.

However, your neighbours may not appreciate music played loud enough to drown out the constant whirr of the motor. The battery compartment might also cause problems, since it is kept closed with a fiddly screw.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Laser Tag, *£49.99, from Tiger Electronics (01423 501151 for stockists).* Laser One, *£99.95 plus p&p, from the Gadget Shop (01482 560860).*

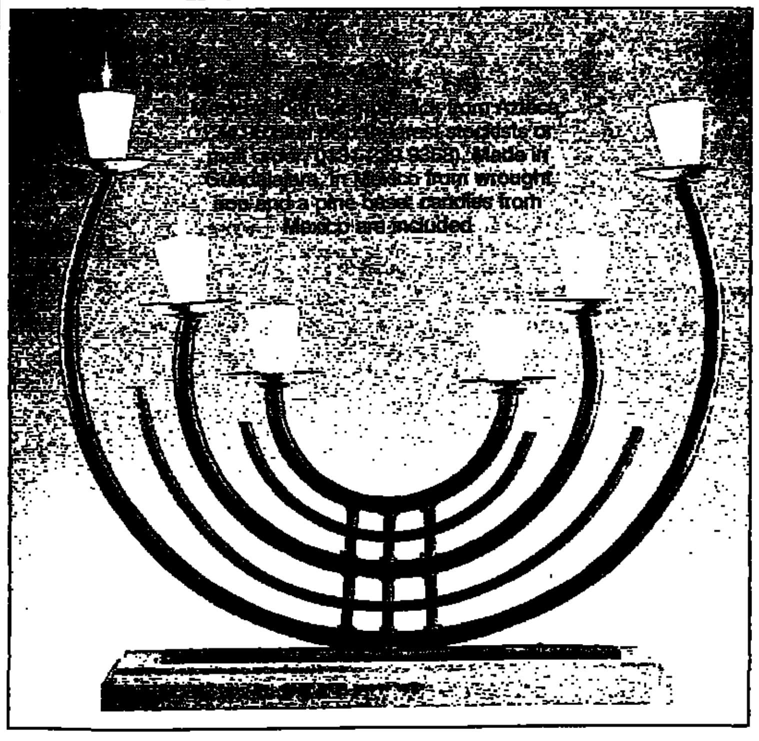
Laser Tag: its radio beam zaps opponents

Dipped lights to wax lyrical over

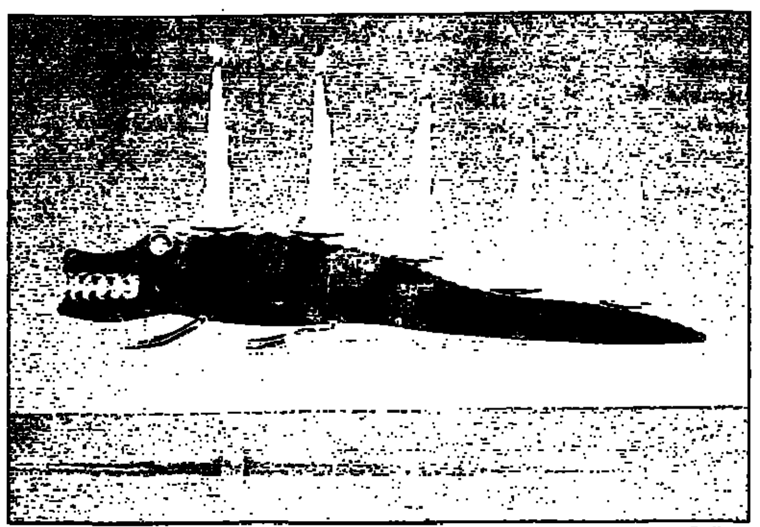
CANDLESTICKS

After dark, chase away the shadows with this season's contemporary candlesticks. Bring ultramodern chic to your dining table with candle stands crafted in everything from glass to metal. Once you have chosen a candlestick, your next problem is finding the right candle. The choice can be confusing, with everything available from aromatic to hand-dipped. Always go for a quality brand like Prices, and beware of any aromatic brands unless you have tested them before, or your house may end up smelling like a perfume parlour.

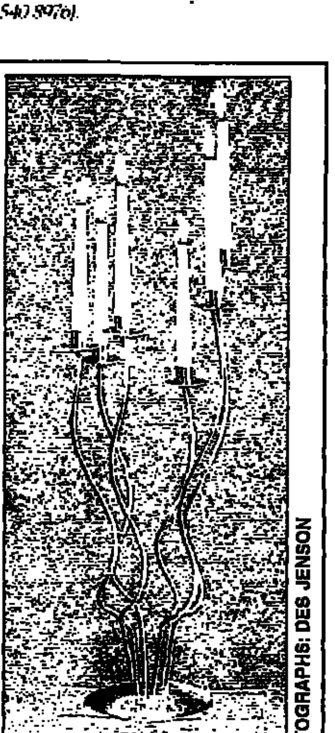
CAROLINE GRIFFITHS



[illegible] from Aztec [illegible] stockists or mail order ([illegible]). Made in Guadalajara, in Mexico from wrought iron and a pine-based candles from Mexico are included



ABOVE: Doctor Croc Candlestick, £57.50 plus £4.20 p&p by Richard Pell (mail order, 0181-678 0800). A fun candlestick for the die-hard, bad-taste gurus; use it to scare unwanted cats from the garden! Made from mild steel with bronze teeth

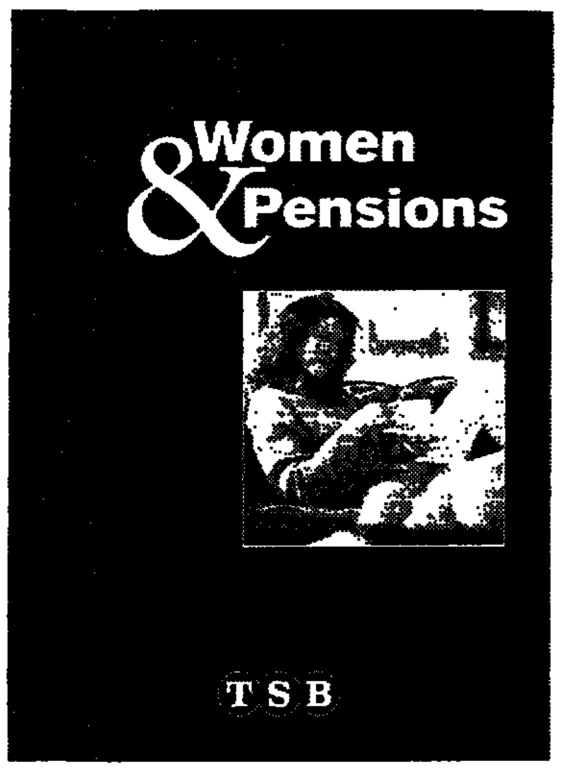


RIGHT: new range Seaweed candlestick, £45 incl. p&p, from Space Appeal (mail order, 01277 366610). Designed by Greg Foremski, made from steel, a blunt instrument will get rid of dripping wax and it should be cleaned with a soft cloth

PHOTOGRAPHS: DES JENSON

ABOVE: Man and Woman candlestick by Berg and Lindbery from £49 (Sweden: 00 46 278 41710). Add a bit of fun to your mantlepiece, also available in miniatures

New Acrobatic candlestick, £21 inc. p&p. Designed by Global Arthouse and made in Indonesia from wrought iron with rattan detail. Mail order, 0181-969 0047



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*Source: Mintel 1996.

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TM20/9

هكذا من الاصل

Orient-inspired shapes in jewel-bright silks and damask can spice up your wardrobe, writes **Heath Brown**

Dolled up beautifully, China style

Chinese whispers heard from top designers in the summer have grown into a chorus of approval from the high-street stores this autumn. The look heralded by Miuccia Prada is echoed by Warehouse, Oasis and Freemans, in traditional shapes and with more modern silhouettes taking on an exotic oriental look in Chinese-inspired fabrics.

With Shanghai-style cheongsam dresses slit to the thigh, loose satin jackets and rich Chinese damasks, the oriental influence is growing even stronger this season.

Sensual and elegant, it is a favourite look of supermodels and movie stars — Kate Moss has been spotted hunting through the rails of London's Chinatown for an authentic "Suzi Wong" dress and Madonna has a penchant for the look — though she favours designer labels such as Dolce & Gabbana and Dior.

With embroidery and pattern being a very important look for this winter, the richly coloured brocades and damasks and all-over embroidered silks and satins are a good way of modernising an outfit. Oriental styling coupled with Far Eastern imagery of willow-pattern designs, delicate flowers and tone-on-tone leaf-and-branch motifs is widely available and provides an easy way to add spice to your look.

Even the most basic items of clothing are made more special with a hint of chinoiserie. Simple single pieces are enlivened with the look and can be worn with plainer separates for a more sophisticated edge. Slimming cigarette trousers are made elegant in rich brocades, no-fuss shell tops are given added glamour for evenings, and skirts with mandarin-collar jackets are a softer, more feminine alternative to severe tailored suits.

For accessories, all manner of items have been given the oriental treatment. The best are from Warehouse, Accessorize and Audrey Ang, who is a graduate of Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design. Along with her small capsule collection of clothing, Ang offers a wide range of simple evening bags, purses, stoles, chokers and hair accessories with an oriental feel.

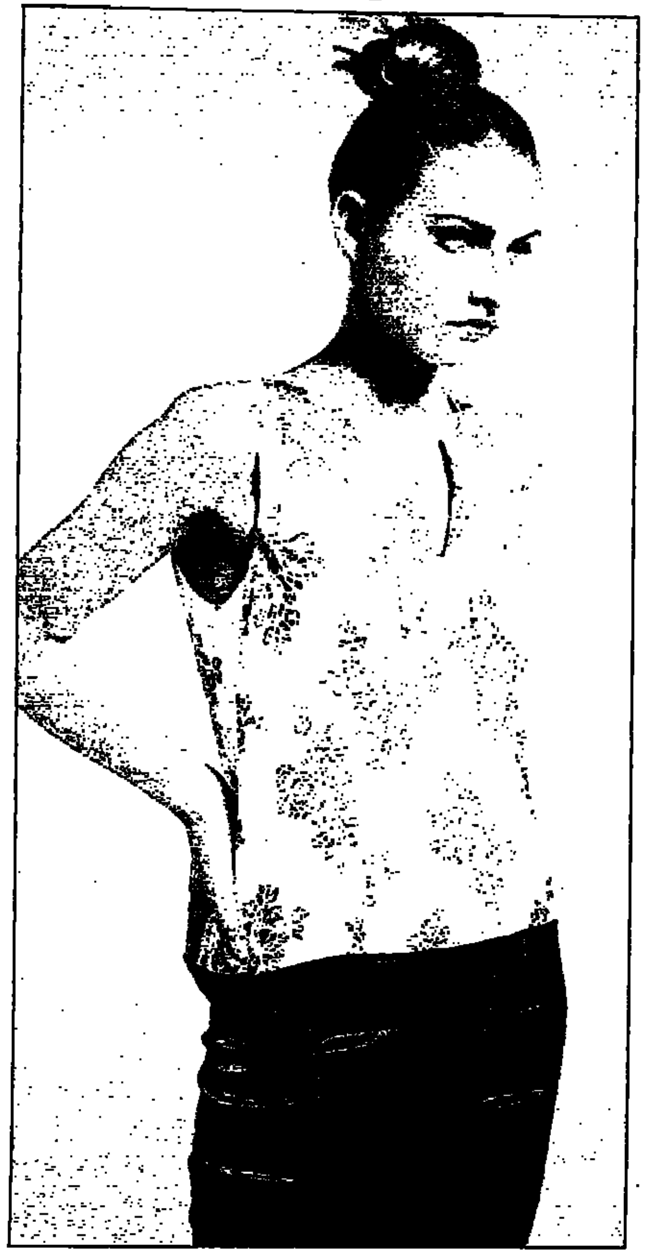
Ang says that the Far Eastern look of her accessories is perfect for any time, anywhere. "Our hand-dyed Chinese fabrics are made up into simple styles that are suitable for the day as well as being great for the evening.

"Whether you wear a single piece of clothing or just a dash of an oriental accessory it can add a feeling of rich, exotic glamour to any outfit. It is great with the blacks, greys and muted colours around at the moment — or even with casual denim. It can lift an otherwise drab ensemble."

This is the whole point of the look, adding to your style but not letting the Chinese look take over. Don't wear it head-to-toe; save that for a fancy dress party.

Fit is important, too. With these styles being mainly in embroidered satin, a clean line is essential. Overtight wrinkles draw attention to bulges and loose-fitting satin jackets can be a little too "kung fu". The stretch fabrics in this style are best. Check out the offerings from Warehouse.

As Eastern influences are adopted by Western designers, fashion takes on an air of the mysterious. Listen to the Chinese whispers and put a little oriental style into your wardrobe.



Silver floral-print top, £34.99, Oasis, branches nationwide (01865 881986). Chocolate brocade trousers, £45, Lipsy, Topshop selected branches (0171-263 6206)

Wine stretch vest top, £18; floral print trousers, £50; both at Warehouse (0171-278 3491). Red silk slingbacks, £99, Kurt Geiger, 49 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-546 1888)

THREE OF A KIND

THE Far East heads West as all manner of footwear gets the oriental treatment. Here are three of the best shoe styles in rich, colourful Chinese damasks. HB

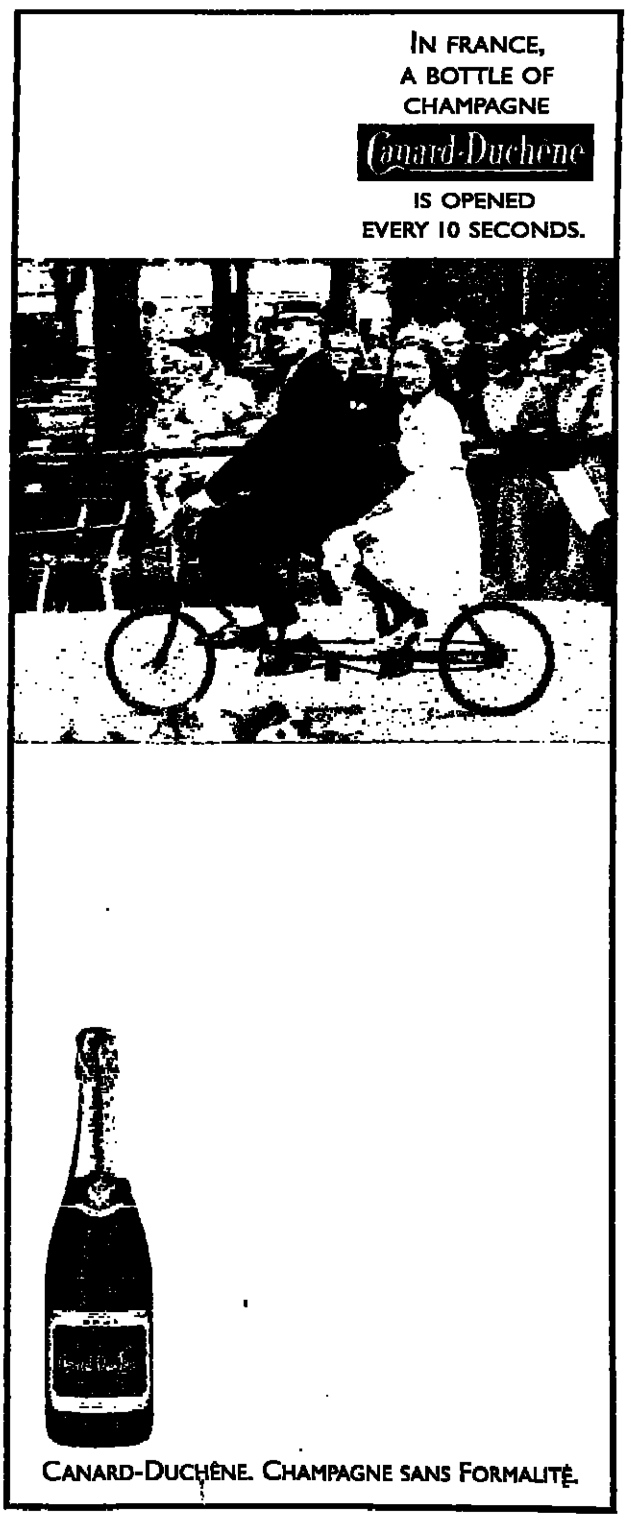
Embroidered gold and black dragon red satin shoes, £160, Patrick Cox, 8 Symons Street, SW1 (0171-730 6504)

Chinese print silk stilettoes, £140, Agnes B, 111 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-225 3477)

Chinese print platform mules, £49.99, Office, 57 Neal Street, WC2 (0181-838 4447)

ABOVE: sleeveless polo-neck top, £20, Warehouse, as before. Rose-print skirt, £30, Freemans mail order (0800 900 200)
LEFT: rose neck choker, £55; midnight blue silk capsleeve top, £185; matching skirt, £195, Audrey Ang, The Cross, 141 Portland Road, London, W11, also mail order (0171-727 1515). Black velvet high-heel shoes, £99, Kurt Geiger, as before

Photographs by **Richard Burns**. Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford (0171-495 7774). Styling by **Amandip Uppal**



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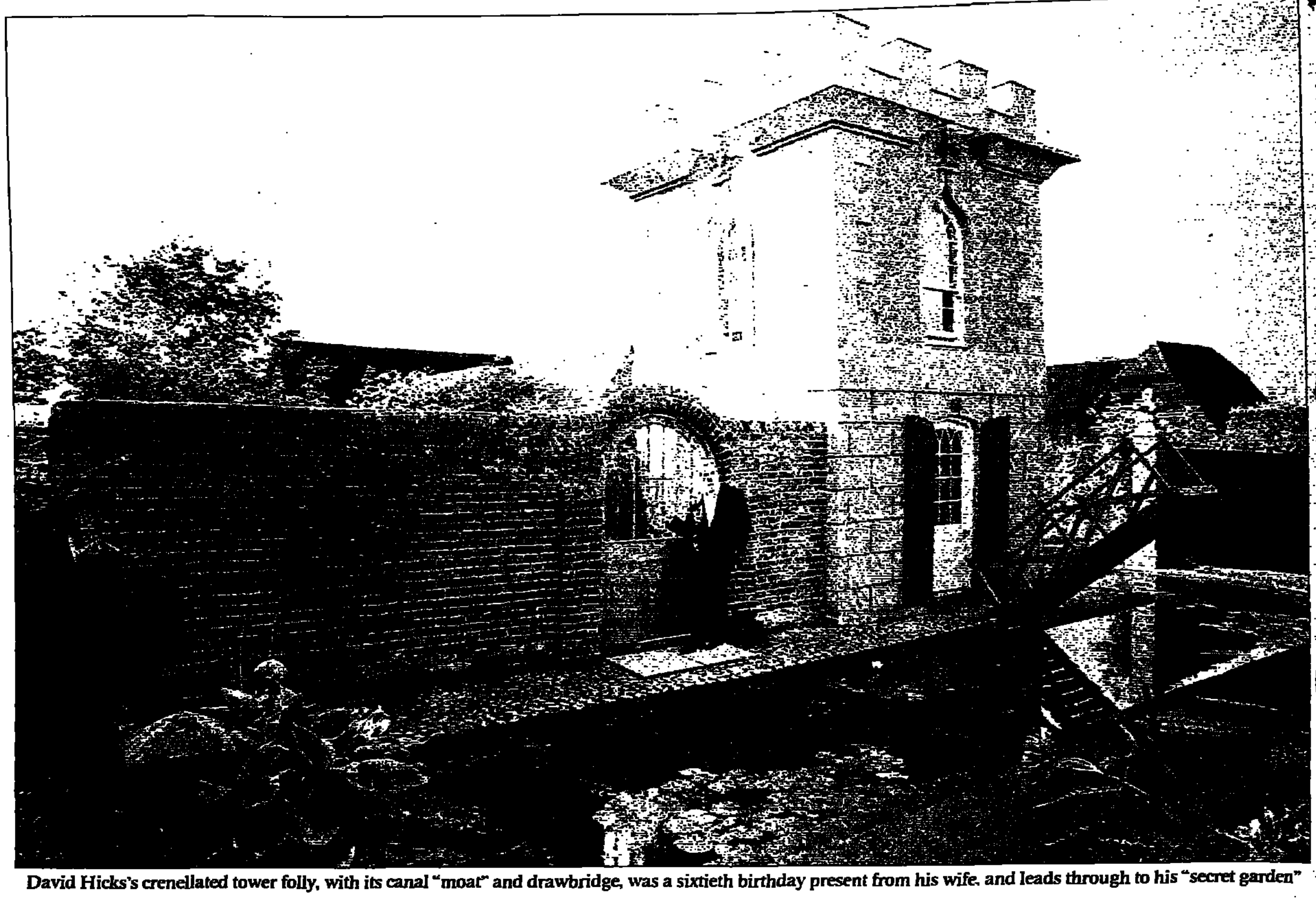
An interior designer's grand plan for outdoors

ME AND MY GARDEN: DAVID HICKS

Jane Owen meets a man who is changing the landscape



GILL ALLEN

David Hicks's crenellated tower folly, with its canal "moat" and drawbridge, was a sixtieth birthday present from his wife, and leads through to his "secret garden"

David Hicks swings the Range Rover across a ditch to give me a closer look at the vistas he has made on his Oxfordshire landscape. "Sorry about the ride: treat this thing like a horse," he says as we hurl past clumps of young beech, oak, Scots pine and hornbeam planted, Capability style, around his Gothicised farmhouse.

Mr Hicks's garden proper is two and a half acres but, by making vistas in every direction from the house, the garden seems to stretch for miles towards the Chilterns in one direction and Didcot power station in the other. Several fields around the garden are planted with flax to "paint the landscape blue for a few months".

Sixteen years ago Mr Hicks, whose father-in-law was Lord Mountbatten, was an interior designer. Then he moved from his large house with its untouchable 18th-century landscape garden to the present house nearby, where "everything had to be done to the garden".

Today the garden is the antithesis of English twee-ness. It is all muscle and discipline and massiveness. And perfection.

Thousands of trees make the well-formed skeleton of the garden. From the dining room, the swimming pool — painted black and disguised as a canal — is flanked on two sides by hedges of lime. The vista continues to the brow of a rise marked by a couple of eyecatching battlements. They are fake: plywood cut outs.

Another eye-catcher, a large pyramid shape on a horizon is on wheels and has caused much debate in the area: the local newspaper asked readers to suggest what it was. Replies included a UFO and a yacht.

From the double-storey drawing room a vista is flanked by closely planted hornbeam on stilts, with a hornbeam hedge behind to show off the aristocratic "legs" of the hornbeam. Two fine classical urns punctuate corners where the hedge makes a right angle. The urns are placed so they cannot be seen when looking back at the house for fear that they would look daft beside the "ramshackle" farmhouse.

Up the rise, a Gothic "tent" of hornbeam and small beech enclosure to either side make hiding places for the Hicks's four grandchildren. Beyond this stretches a 90-tree Spanish chestnut allèe with a 50ft span.

Behind this vista Mr Hicks has made a series of garden rooms and allées of willow, rose, honeysuckle and hornbeam. One garden room is planted with several varieties of *Magnolia grandiflora*.

To the front of the house, Versailles tubs are planted with cubes of pink-flowered hawthorn, held aloft above tiny hedges made up of 16 beeches. Who else but a interior designer could have thought of such a wheeze?

Gardening runs in the veins: Mr Hicks's mother and father were keen; his mother "pinched cuttings" and his father, a Victorian, delighted in brightly coloured bedding, making Mr Hicks's childhood garden one that he hated. At eight years old, he was given his own plot and planted "bright red geraniums and anything else that appealed to vulgar taste".

At 18 he became a marked man. He visited Sissinghurst garden in Kent, and, as he sat and sketched, he was tapped on the shoulder by Vita Sackville-West, who took him in for tea. "I am not a plantsman, I am a designer. If my wife was a plantswoman maybe I should have had a partnership like that of Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West, and this garden would have been better," he says. I doubt it. Only an unshackled garden autocrat could have come up with such a remarkable, bold style.

At the front of the house in spring is a wave of daffodils. "I hate them but they were here when we came and the wife likes them so they stay," he says. It is hard to imagine Mr Hicks making many such compromises.

A two-storey, moated, castellated tower folly, a sixtieth birthday present from his wife, leads through to Mr Hicks's "secret garden", where tree peonies, roses, lilies, poppies, stocks and hostas run voluptuous riot. Scent and romance gather here, all the more shockingly in contrast to the formality of the rest of the garden.

Outside the secret garden is another inspiration: huge *faux* terracotta tubs of parrot tulips are sunk at regular intervals into a rectangle of clipped hawthorn measuring 20ft x 10ft x 3ft. In summer, the tulips are replaced by globe artichokes. There is a "red room" of copper beech; a "green room" of lime and foxgloves, with two Lutyens benches; a corridor of box clipped into geometric shapes ending with an eruption of angelica; a rose walk of the shocking pink rampant rambler American Pillar.

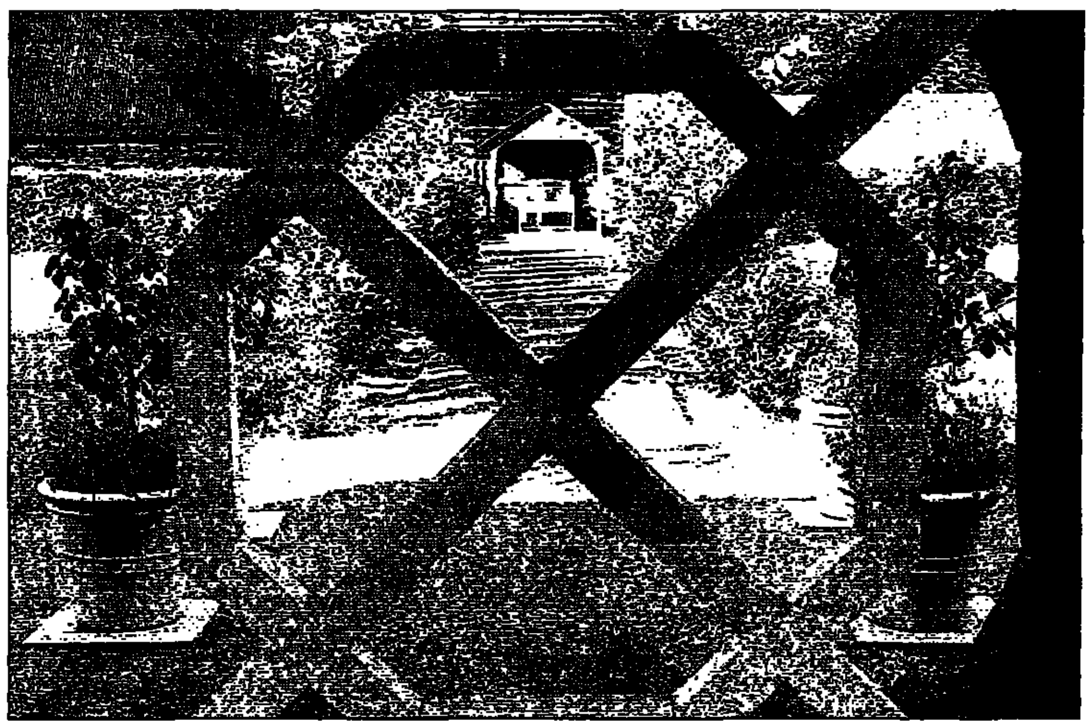
One area is thick with great terracotta pots of hostas — "If you smear Vaseline around the base of a hosta when it has just come up the slugs won't get it," he claims, adding: "That's the sort of tip the groups I show round love. I get about 600 people a year."

As we walk, Mr Hicks constantly picks up garden debris and shouts out suggestions and commands to his gardeners. He makes things happen — fast. Even the plants have to get their acts together at speed, so his farm's manure is supplemented by Growmore.

My question about how he uses the garden — does he sit in it? — is greeted with a polite snort: he is too busy whizzing around the world making gardens for other people. "Now I do more gardens than interiors. I made this garden and it was photographed and then I kept getting commissions," he says.

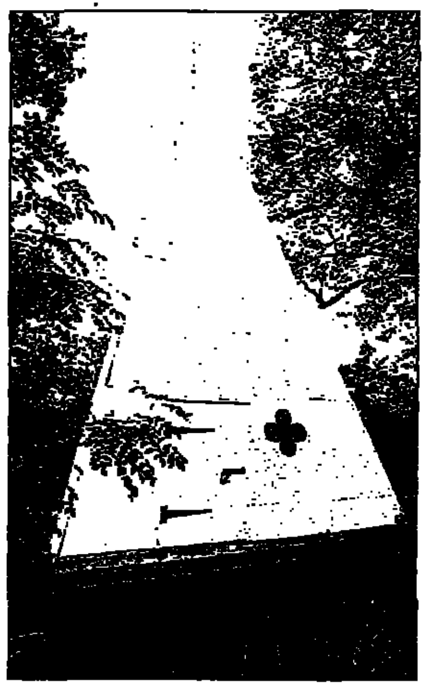
● *Specialist societies wishing to visit Mr Hicks's garden may be able to do so by booking a year in advance on 01491 824555.*

**India Hicks, fashion model
Magazine, page 36**



Above: one of the several allée vistas, here seen through trelliswork

Left: among the garden's statuary are staddlestone pillars, each topped with cast-iron balls



Right: this strange pyramid on wheels (one of two) causes much local debate. Is it a UFO? Is it a yacht? In fact, it's a folly on one side and a church steeple on the other

David Hicks framed against a gate leading into his garden

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

Q **Our 35ft eucalyptus tree is covered with ivy up to the last 10ft. The leaves and branches at the top seem healthy but will the ivy kill the tree? How do we remove the ivy?** — W.R.G. Benyon, Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire.

A There are always differing opinions about allowing ivy to colonise trees. Mine is that on strong, mature trees it does no real harm: it houses bird life and, on old trees, looks picturesque; flower arrangers kill for the mature foliage; and it turns a deciduous tree into an evergreen presence. On young or weak trees, and on evergreens or fruit trees, I like it less. The weight of mature foliage is considerable and, when topped with snow, can cause breakages. It does not so much strangle trees as deprive them of light. But eucalyptus trees grow so fast that they should be a fair match for ivy. Although your specimen is two-thirds covered, it will still lead the race. However, eucalyptus tend to be bare trees towards the base anyway, and you may find that a colony of ivy will finish off your lower branches altogether.

The best option is to cut the ivy trunk and the base, but also cut out as much top growth as you can reach with ladders, to make it look less sad, and to let the light and air into the tree again. This would be my preference. There is no real need to strip out every last stem of ivy from the tree, but it is worth destroying the root unless you are prepared to peel off fresh attempts to scale the tree every winter. We should all think hard before allowing ivy to colonise a tree in the first place.

Q **I have lots of foxgloves and last year bought 'Giant Spotted', which flowered beautifully and died. I saved seed and grew it on and planted the seedlings out this year. But the new plants have not flowered, although all the other foxgloves in the garden are doing well. Will they flower eventually, or is there something in the breeding which prevents this?** — Miss P.A. Peverett, Ruislip, Middlesex.

A The common foxglove, *Digitalis purpurea*, is a strange thing. We regard it as a biennial, making a rosette of leaves in year one and flowering and dying in year two. But, in fact, it is a short-lived perennial. Plants will survive for a few years, especially if you cut off the flower spikes after they have bloomed and spare the plants the effort of producing all those millions of seeds. They also seem to last longer in poorer, drier soil. And often they can come up to flowering in their first year.

Your hand-raised plants are just being picky. Perhaps being raised in pots at the end of last year checked their root growth, and has made them concentrate now on consolidation rather than procreation. Rest assured, next year they will flower, and they will be bigger and better for having simply grown hard this year. I would not trouble to hand-raise new plants, but would make sure I scattered the seed widely in the garden, and weeded out some of the less exciting ordinary ones.

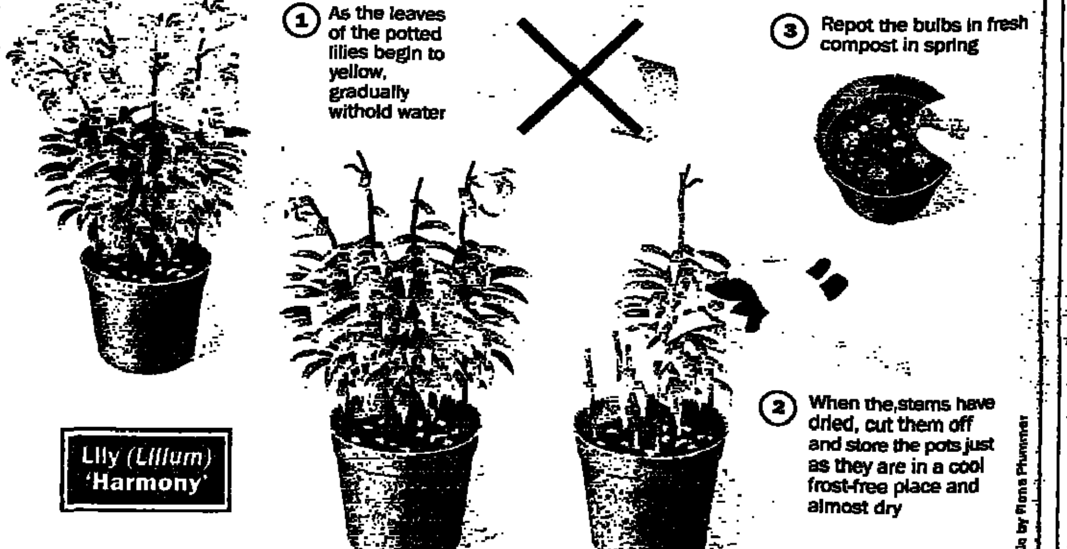
Did you know you can select foxgloves in purple and white mixed colonies to be just white, simply by removing the purple ones before they flower? This practice is helped by the fact that the whites have distinctly paler foliage, even as seedling plants, and long before flowering.

● *Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.*

Start planning for a beautiful spring garden

- Moist September weather is a good time to set about dividing the herbaceous perennials, while the roots are still active but the tops are dying back. It pays to divide now those plants which flower and leaf early in spring, such as pulmonaria, *Euphorbia griffithii*, brunnera and the early hostas.
- Take cuttings of penstemons under polythene, pushing them in around the edge of a 6in pot. Pot them on separately in the spring. Most penstemons survive winter outdoors, but the strongest, healthiest plants are those raised afresh from cuttings and planted out again in spring.
- As the leaves of potted lilies begin to yellow, gradually withhold water. When the stems have dried, cut them off and store the pots, almost dry; in a cool frost-free place. In spring, repot the bulbs in fresh compost.
- Bring indoors to a cool greenhouse potted azaleas which have been standing outside in summer. Keep them moist and light, and start to feed with liquid tomato food only when the flower buds start to swell.
- Collect and burn the falling leaves of plants with fungal leaf diseases, such as rose or hypericum rust, black spot, willow anthracnose and so on.
- When new compost heaps are being made from the dead stems of herbaceous plants and spent bedding plants, a dusting of lime between layers helps to keep the heap sweet.
- Light coverings of leaves on lawns may be removed using a rotary lawnmower with the collection box fitted; this shreds the leaves and speeds up rotting, the nitrogen in the grass clippings helping to break down the soft tissues in the leaves.
- Check that summer growth has not tightened tree-ties around young trunks, and slacken them to allow a little play. Trees which may no longer require a stake are better left until spring to have the stakes removed. The tree tie which is kindest to soft young bark is an old pair of tights, tied in a figure of eight.
- There is still just time before the winter to get another dose of weedkiller (glyphosate) into the foliage of recurrent problem weeds, such as ground elder. There is no point spraying foliage which is already yellow, but spraying green foliage will help for next year.
- Burn potato haulms infected with blight. Do not put them on the compost heap.
- Dead-head late-flowering bedding plants such as dahlias, and argyranthemums.
- Order fruit trees and bushes for delivery early next spring.

TIPS ON STORING POTTED LILIES



① As the leaves of the potted lilies begin to yellow, gradually withold water

② When the stems have dried, cut them off and store the pots just as they are in a cool frost-free place and almost dry

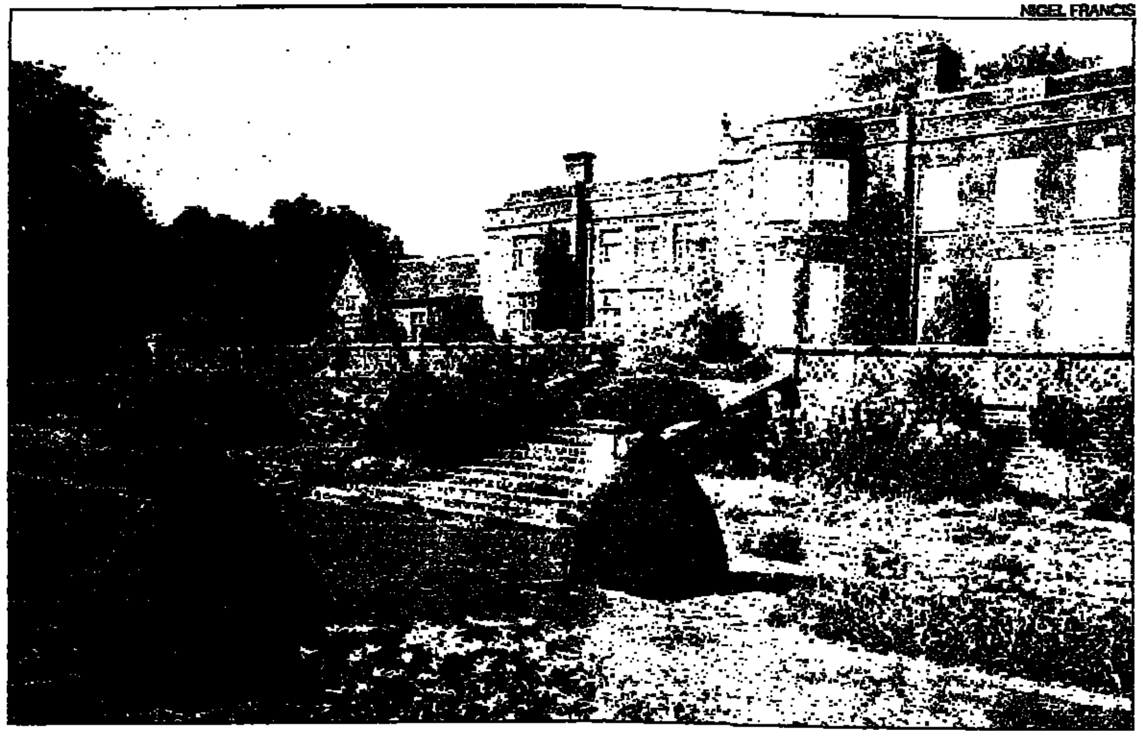
③ Repot the bulbs in fresh compost in spring

Graphic by Rona Plummer

هكذا من الاعلى

JERRY HARPUR

Left: the well-stocked main garden at Eastgrove Cottage, with its fine and often rare plants, is best seen in late summer



NIGEL FRANCIS

Right: at Hinton Ampner, the terraces are all given an identity by their planting schemes, whether formal or unrestrained

Seeking out the late summer scents

GARDENS TO VISIT

■ Eastgrove Cottage, Sankyns Green, near Shrawley, Little Witley, Worcestershire (01299 896389)

Between Shrawley on the B4196 and Great Witley on the A443, eight miles northwest of Worcester. Open Thurs, Fri, Sat to Oct 18, and Sun Sept 28 and Oct 12, 2-5pm. £2, children free.

This is one of my favourite gardens, and one that you leave with a sense of having seen not just an outstanding garden but one that is also a place resounding with enthusiasm. Because Eastgrove is set deep in the countryside and finding it is challenging, you arrive with heightened expectation. The introduction of the garden around the old barn opposite the cottage is something of an appetiser. In the main garden the atmosphere of a cottage is never overpowered by the quantity of fine and often rare plants. To one side is an orchard garden that you can immediately imagine in spring, at the far end is a small arboretum. Perennials are the speciality — though not at the expense of shrubs and bulbs — and late summer is one of the best times, with outstanding Michaelmas daisies, dahlias and other seasonal delights. The nursery that Malcolm and Carol Skinner run next to the garden offers many of the plants you will have admired.

■ Hinton Ampner, Bramdean, Hampshire (01962 771305).

Eight miles east of Winchester. Open today and tomorrow, then Tues, Wed, Sat and Sun to end Sept, 1.30-5.30pm (last entry 5pm). £2.80, children £1.40.

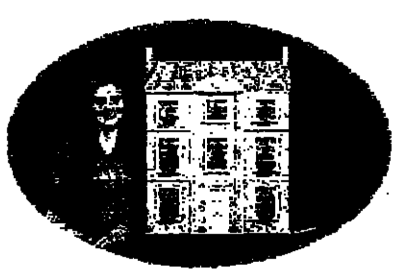
The garden, though created during this century, belongs to a distinguished classical tradition that stretches back to the Italian Renaissance. Ralph Dutton, who became Lord Sherborne, lived here for half a century from 1935 and developed the house and garden. The house was rebuilt in Georgian style and the garden incorporated the main existing features. The sense of orderly garden design is apparent as you approach the house and continues with the lily pool garden on the east side. It is along the south side, however, that the garden's forte is revealed; a superb progression of terraces overlooking the chalk farmland beyond. The terraces are all given an identity by their planting schemes, whether architectural and formal such as an avenue of Irish yews, or more unrestrained in large groups of flowering shrubs. Perhaps the most striking feature is how the garden's impressive collection of statuary and other ornaments are incorporated into the design: one great figure standing silhouetted on the edge of the garden and park provides a dramatic focal point to one of the long vistas across the terraces.

■ Lochalsh Woodland Garden, Balmacara, Kyle, Highland (01599 566325).

Off A87, three miles east of Kyle of Lochalsh. Open daily all year, 9am-sunset. £1, children 50p.

The garden was begun at the end of the last century, the steep site developed as a woodland garden protected by pines, beech and other woodland trees. The rhododendron collection built up in the 1950s is the spring and early summer forte. More recently, the planting and seasonal interest has been extended with bamboos and ferns, and hydrangeas and fuchsias that are flowering now.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



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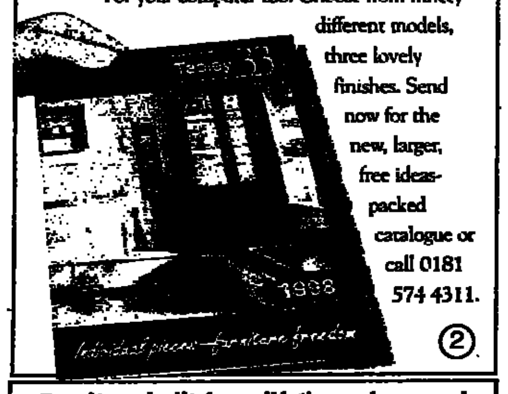

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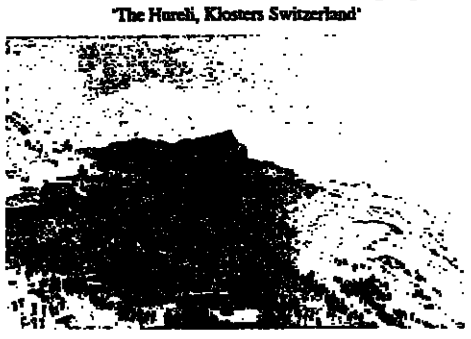

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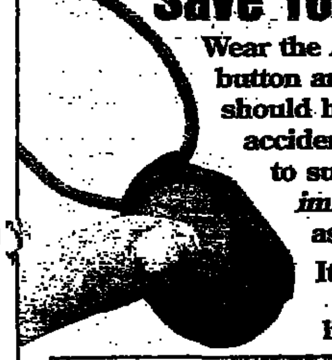

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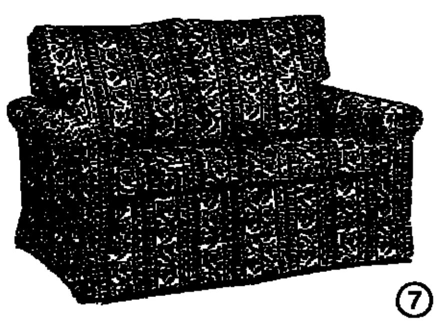

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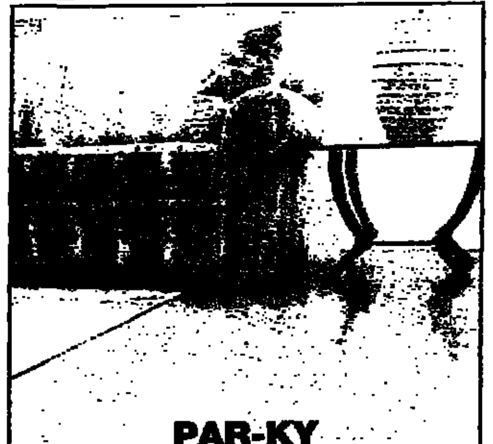

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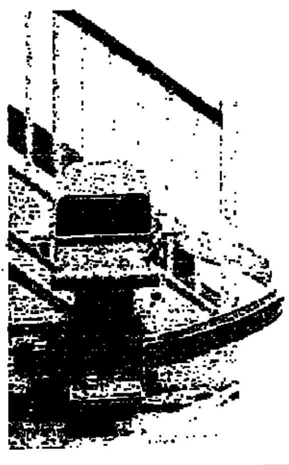

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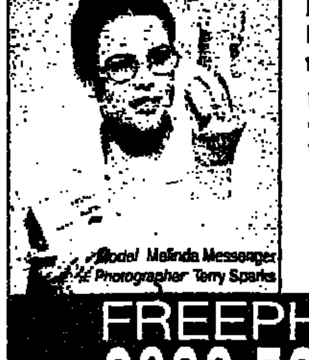

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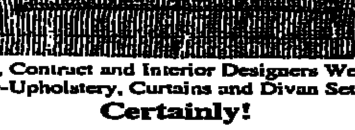

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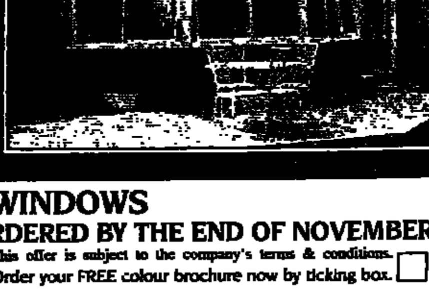

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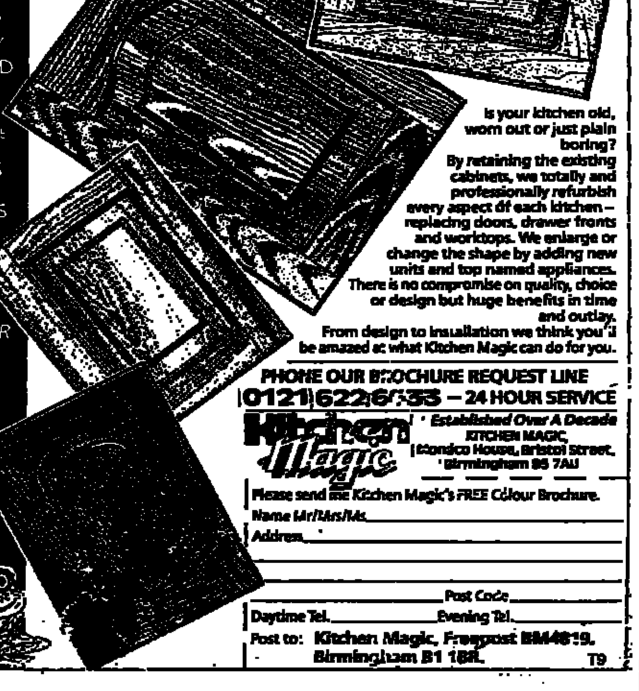

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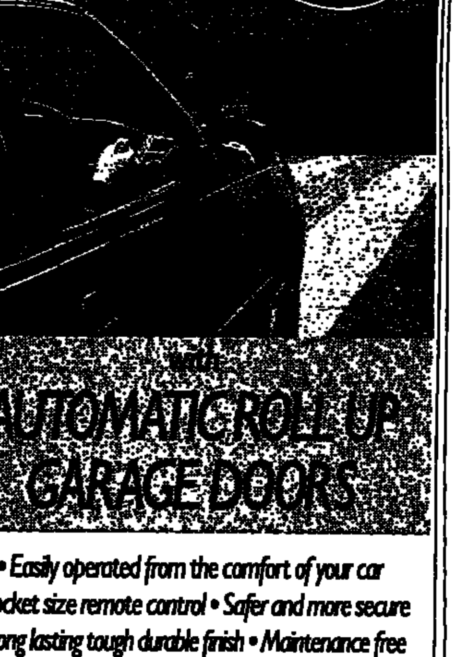

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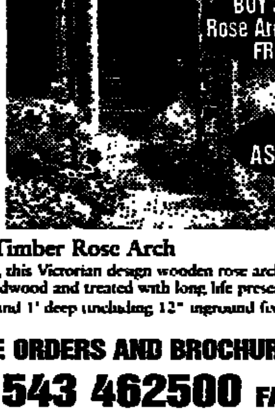

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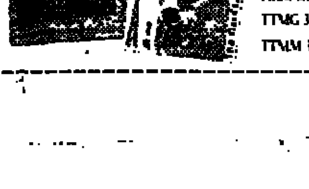

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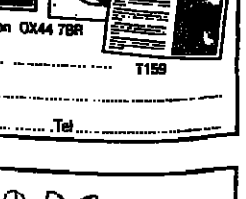

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DES JENSON

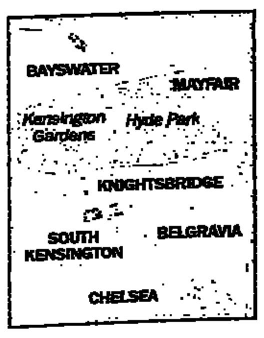
Tomasz Starzewski favours sumptous, dark fabrics and cannot stand natural light. That has not deterred his wealthy clients from beating a path to the door of his basement flat

A dapper dresser's den

MARKET COMMENT

SOUTH Kensington is the haunt of overseas buyers and young professionals who are attracted by the area's good transport links, shops and restaurants, handsome classically constructed stucco-fronted houses — and an air of vibrancy and community missing from neighbouring districts such as Belgravia, Mayfair and Knightsbridge.

A further attraction is the ready availability of relatively long leases. For example, the freehold for the Henry Smith Charity Estate, which encompasses about 1,400 of South Kensington's most attractive flats and houses, was sold last summer; the new landlord, Wellcome, is offering leaseholders the chance to buy a new 105-year lease (most current leases are down to around 53 years) at 15 per cent of the current property value. On a £300,000 flat this would work out at £45,000. That flat would attract a premium of around 10-15 per cent as a result, pushing its value from £345,000 to perhaps £385,000 according to Matthew Kaye at Chesterfield.



Many apartments in Belgravia and Knightsbridge have leases of less than 40 years. Mortgage lenders generally look for a minimum 50 years.

A PRICE of £300,000 represents the lower side of the two-bedroom flat market in South Kensington: it would buy a basement or second-floor flat in a pleasant street but probably without the sought-after communal garden outlook. Comparable first-floor flats will fetch prices approaching £400,000, or more.

Prices have risen dramatically during the year; Peter Rollings of Foxtons reports increases of 20 per cent on the resale of properties sold a year ago, especially at this lower end of the market. But the pressure has eased recently, with evidence of asking prices being dropped, as vendors have pushed their luck beyond the bounds of even this active market.

FAITH GLASGOW

Alex O'Connell

examines the personal style of a man who dresses the rich and famous

Tomasz Starzewski, society fashion designer and accomplished air kisser, is moving boudoirs. The man whose client list reads like an index of royal wedding attendees — Sophie Rhys-Jones, Ivana Trump, Victoria Lockwood, Shirley Bassey, Stefanie Powers, Annie Lennox and, until recently, Diana, Princess of Wales — rests within hopping distance of Kensington Palace and the boutiques and boulangeries of the Old Brompton Road. This week, his one-bedroom Victorian basement flat — a sort of aristocratic drop-in centre for gown-deprived Lunching Ladies — is going on the market for £295,000.

Starzewski is hard to pigeonhole. His own designs are not sexy enough for the It girls — Normandie Keith recently modelled some of his dresses in *Hello!* and looked like a dour old spinster wrapped up in a curtain — although he probably dresses their mothers. His personal style is that of a podgy, mollycoddled schoolboy: foppish hair, tortoiseshell glasses, Thomas Pink shirt and shiny cufflinks. More dapper don than St Martin's alumnus.

His flat is an exhausting mix of conflicting styles, a sort of misfired Portobello chic made up of friends' artwork and ethnic hand-me-downs.

Born in Barnes in southwest London, the son of Polish parents — his father was an architect, his mother a designer — "Toooom" (as the ladies purr) bought his pied-à-terre two and a half years ago.

This is Starzewski's first real home. Previous abodes included a pokey flat above a fish and chip shop in Fulham and a tiny nook in Old Compton Street (the sort of place where you can buy a vibrating egg, an Elvis phone and a tarte au citron in adjoining shops).

When he first moved to Kensington, the previous owner had the place looking like a spoilt scotty dog: all tartan walls and ribbons.

Starzewski's friend Tessa Kennedy directed the face-lift. The rooms are still very dark: he is a regular Blanche DuBois and cannot abide natural light, something his wrinklier clients appreciate. So there are dim lamps in every corner and sumptous, deep, dark fabrics.

Even Aladdin might find the drawing room a tad overcrowded. Starzewski is a patron of young British art, and there is a large bullfight scene at the far end of the room painted by Tessa Kennedy's son, Damian Elwes. The bar in the corner — a grim mahogany monstrosity, resembling an altar in a Russian Orthodox church, was inspired by a trip to Russia. An eye searching for visual calm would do best to lie back on the leopardskin chaise longue — "it's a day-bed and a place to read and watch telly" — and look to the whitewashed ceiling.

Starzewski entertains a lot. "I have dinner parties once or twice a week," he says, "that's what this home is for." If he was not a designer he would be a chef. The kitchen — an excavated coal hole — is a shabby, sand-coloured den with a Middle Eastern feel. Pipes run across the perilously low ceiling and it seems likely that anyone with any money would scrap it and convert the bathroom into a swankier cookhouse.

Starzewski has spent many years of his life in a state of celibacy, despite bizarre rumours of his engagement to Maya Flick. This has not prevented him devoting a lot of time and energy to making his bedroom comfortable. A large canopied bed is dressed in his parents' wedding bedspread. Pastel lamps sit uneasily beside an exhausting collection of tassles and drapery. The green felt walls made me want to bring back my Fuzzy Felts and spend the rest of the morning creating an authentic farmyard scene.

Starzewski, who attended the Princess of Wales's funeral, confirms that it is time for a change. "The next place will be completely different. It will be very modern. I am looking for a mews house to gut." He is in no rush: "If it sells, it sells, if it doesn't, it doesn't."

● *Agent: Chesterfield (0171-581 5234). Paul Daniels's house, featured last week, is for sale through agents John D. Wood (0171-493 4106).*

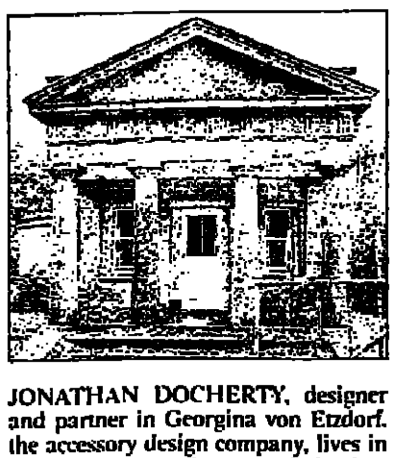
The flat's living room is an exhausting mixture of styles, including ethnic hand-me-downs, illuminated by dim lamps

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

A new Starzewski creation gracing the catwalk

DREAM HOMES OF THE FASHION DESIGNERS

BEN DE LISI, fashion designer, lives in a one-bedroom flat in a 1960s block on the King's Road, central London. He bought the flat four years ago for £106,000 and had the interiors redesigned by the designer Adam Dolle. The flat is now worth about £240,000.



JONATHAN DOCHERTY, designer and partner in Georgina von Etzdorf, the accessory design company, lives in a two-bedroom 18th-century lodge just outside Salisbury. The beautifully decorated property is close to the company's workshop, a converted barn.

PAUL COSTELLO, Irish fashion designer, lives in a large five-bedroom property with his wife, Anne, and seven children, in Monktown, Co Dublin. Costello bought the early 19th-century Regency house 12 years ago after being "drawn to its optimistic feel".

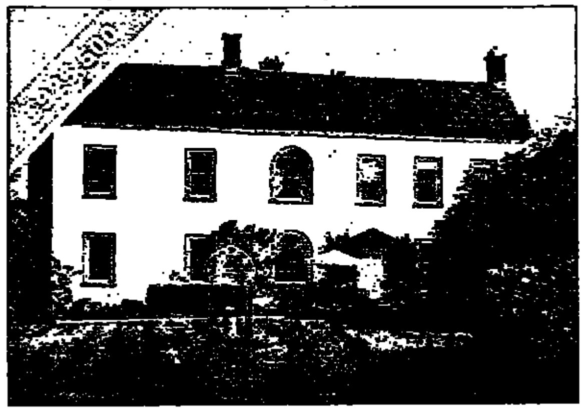
HOMESWAP

THE AREA to the west of Chelsea, towards Fulham, with its trendy shops and restaurants, is gaining popularity with young well-heeled media folk looking for a London pad. Property prices in SW10 are 20 per cent cheaper than in central Chelsea, despite gains of 25 per this year. A one-bedroom flat in a converted stucco-fronted 19th century house in the popular cherry tree-lined Redcliffe Road, around the corner from the Fulham ABC, where Liz Hurley and Hugh Grant have just bought a £1-million house, will set you back £225,000.

London escapees are finding very little to buy in Gloucestershire. Good houses coming to the market in the £500,000 to £900,000 bracket are being snapped up fast, with some fetching 10 per cent over their guides, says Rupert Sweeting of Knight Franks Country House Department. Popular areas include Stroud, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cirencester and Tetbury, where the average price for a farmhouse is £600,000 and a country house with a cottage and a few acres £900,000, following price rises of up to 15 per cent in the past year.

Any good house within commuting distance of Leeds, Harrogate and York sells quickly, with increasingly high prices. The area appeals to relocating lawyers and accountants in Leeds, looking for country homes in the range £400,000 to £600,000 pushing prices up 15 per cent this year.

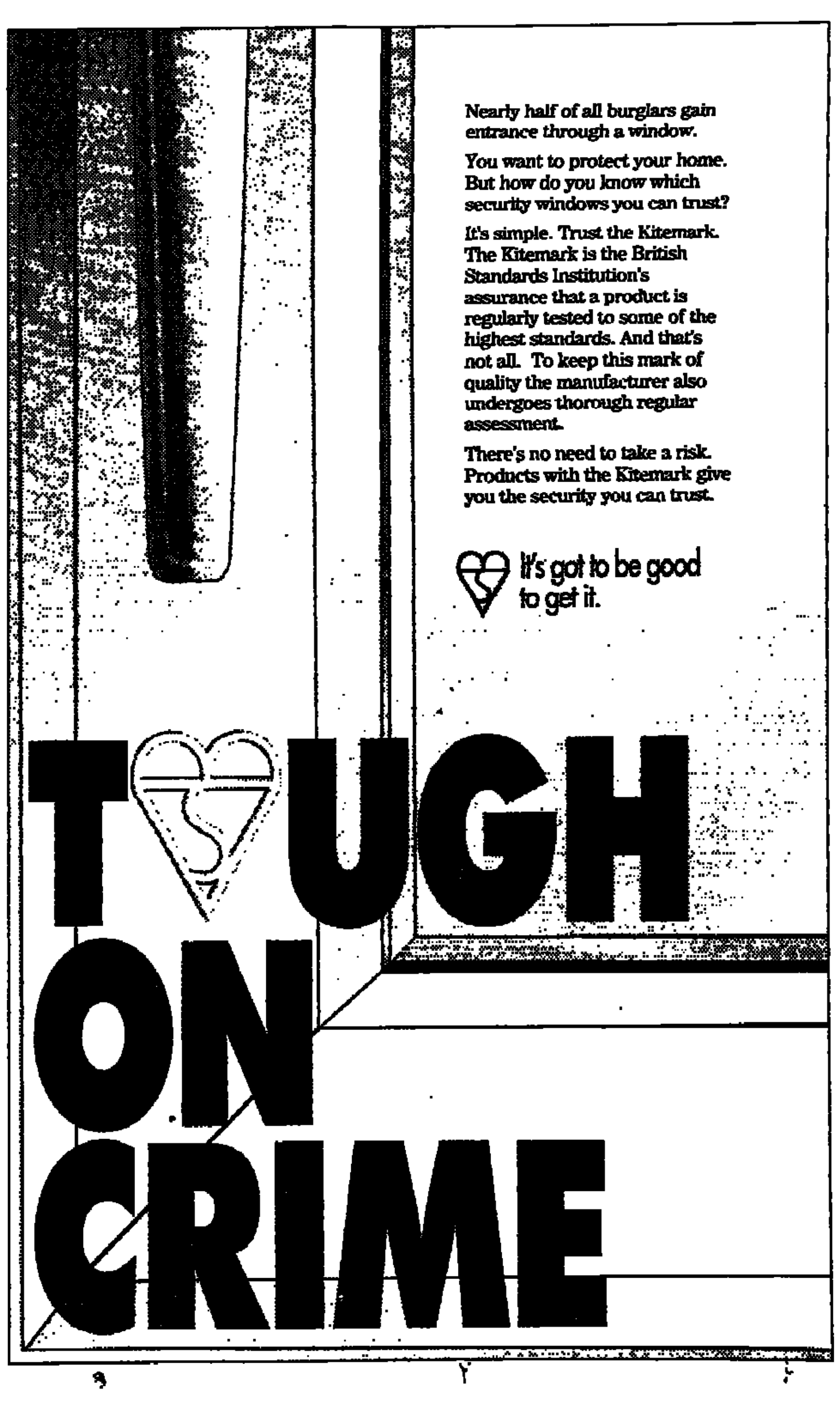
This handsome four-bedroom Victorian terraced house with a paved rear garden, in Lamont Road, London SW10, has a price tag of £925,000. (Lane Fox, 0171-225 3866).



In Gloucestershire, £925,000 will buy you The Mount House, a fine Grade II* listed 17th century house in 3.25 acres of gardens and paddocks, at Alderley, once owned by the famous botanist Marianne North. It has six bedrooms, a self-contained flat, a two-bedroom converted coach house, stabling, tennis court and a swimming pool. (Knight Frank, 01285 659771).

For even less (£900,000), you could buy Bilbrough Manor, near York, a Grade II listed ten-bedroom Edwardian country house in 42 acres of gardens, park and woodland, with views towards the Yorkshire Dales. It has four large-sized reception rooms, a two room flat and a self-contained two bedroom annexe. (Knight Frank, 01904 671 672).

CHERYL TAYLOR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BARGAINS. Repossessions and Reduced for quick sale props. Capital Property Lists. 7 days 10am-10pm 0171 833 1104.

LITTLE VENICE. W2 Excellent 4 bed mews house plus garden in private modern development, with gge & osp. F/H £299,995. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

MAIDA VALE, W9 Stunning split level 2 bed 1st floor conversion + high ceilings in premiere road, close Warwick Ave tube. Share of F/H £239,995 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

MAIDA VALE, W9. Lge newly refurb 3 bed flat with patio gdn. Excellent value, £159,995. Sandfords 0171 723 9988

MAIDA VALE W9 Bright & spac 3 bed 2 bath apart. Portered block, lift. £295,000. Dukes 0171 487 5115 / 0973 800636

MARBLE ARCH. Park West. Studio flat, 2nd flr, lift, 24 hr porter. £59,950. 0171 724 9919

NW6 For sale by Auction. 2 refurbished flats, West Hampstead. Athawes : 0181 992 0056

PIMLICO SW1 Freehold house, recep, kit/dining, 4-5 beds/study, patio, 2 roof terraces, utility £525,000 Freehold. Best Gapp 0171 730 9253 or Hamptons 0171 824 4771

ST JOHNS WOOD, NW8. 2 bed flat in luxury period block with porter & gardens. Guide £125-140,000. Tel. 0171 586 0198

W1. Queen Anne St. 4 beds, 3 baths, clkrm, xmls, P/B blk, porter. £550,000. 0171 724 9919

W9 2 bed 1st flr flat in period conv. Low outgoings £99,950. Westways 0171 792 2167.

W6 - Brackenbury. 3 storey Vic terr hse. 4 Beds. Dble recep. Util rm. Clkrm. Kit. Loft rm. Roof terr. W/F patio. £299,000. Royston 0181 563 7100

W9 Bright two bedroom second floor flat £98,000. Call Pembertons 0171 586 5999

W2 Bright 2 bed 6th flr flat (lift) in popular mod pbb. £159,500. Westways 0171 792 2167.

WESTMINSTER, SW1. Luxury two bed mansion apartment benefits from comm. gardens, spa, sauna and gym. Res porter. 0171 820 0123.

W4 3 storey Victorian terr hse overlooking Chiswick House Grounds. 3 beds, dble rec, kit/diner. Bath shower. w/c, roof terrace & gdn. £280,000. Royston 0181 563 7100

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BARNES Adaptable Edwardian 3/4 bed s/d house in pleasant road with 60ft sunny garden. Many orig features, £339,500. Allen Briegal 0181 392 1635

BARNES Period conversion ground floor 2 bedrs small garden £135,000 0171 371 6721 Agent.

BATTERSEA 2 bed gdn flat, good transport connections, no chain, £125,000. Tel: 0181 699 6071

CLAPHAM COMMON, SW4. Three storey, four bed Vic terrace house good cond, double recep, garden, gch. 0171 820 0123.

DULWICH Victorian 4 dble bed hse, bath rm & shwr rm, 100' rear gdn. £195,000. F/H. Bushells 0181 299 1722.

DULWICH Vic. semi 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 recep. £189,950. F/H. Bushells 0181 299 1722.

DULWICH VILLAGE Det. 4 bed, 3 recep, 150' rear gdn. £375,000. F/H. Bushells 0181 299 1722.

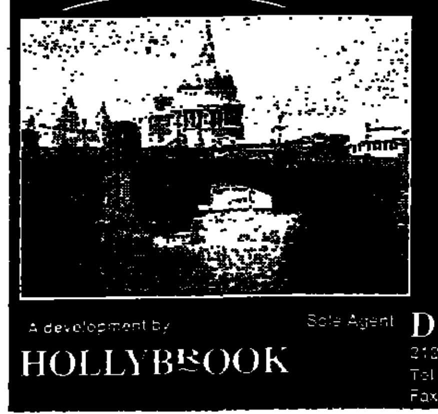
BATTERSEA SQUARE

One of the last remaining family houses in Battersea square:
Battersea village
SW11.
Recently refurbished, spacious, 4 storey, 4 bed, 2 bathrooms, 1 cloakroom, large double reception, dining/ second reception, Smallbone kitchen and breakfast room, utility area. South facing patio garden, and large roof garden.
Freehold OIRO £339,000
Tel: 0385 345 543

LONDON PROPERTY

Centuries of history just minutes from the city

The Globe Apartments



Last few remaining two bedroom apartments with balconies, overlooking historic courtyard within this new development, close to the city and transport facilities
NHBC, lift, parking available, long leases

Prices from £195,000
Completion October 1997

A development by
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Sole Agent
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Tel 0171 407 2790
Fax 0171 407 3276

NEW HOMES

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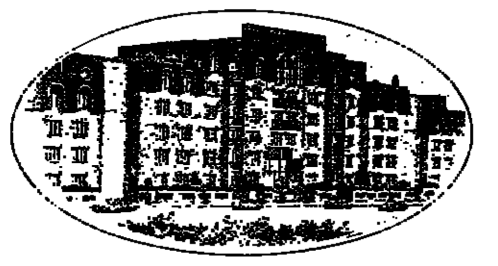
The property ladder.

Above and beyond the top rung.



WESTMINSTER SQUARE, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, SE1

Set in the heart of London, this development of luxurious new apartments is just 400 metres from Waterloo Station and only 700 metres from the Houses of Parliament. At Westminster Square you'll find only the highest specifications, as well as a 24 hour concierge and comprehensive security.
For a brochure or to arrange a viewing please call 0171 642 8399.

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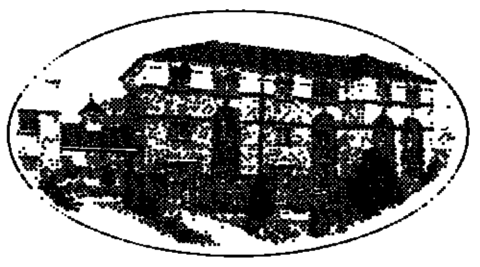
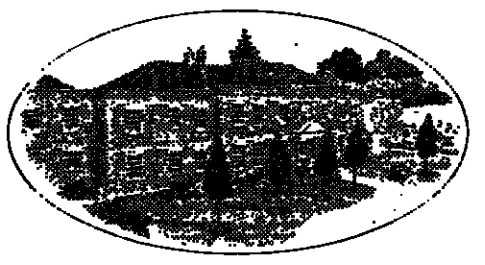


KING'S ACRE, OSBORNE ROAD, WINDSOR

Nestling in the heart of Windsor, within sight of the castle, King's Acre has a superb selection of four bedroom apartments and four bedroom townhouses. Again, we are offering the highest specifications, including Bosch kitchen appliances, video entry systems and oak strip timber flooring in the hallways.
For further details please call our sole agents Mann & Co. in Windsor on 01753 856531.



BROOK MANOR, TURNER'S HILL ROAD, EAST GRINSTEAD

This is a truly unique opportunity to own one of only twelve luxury four bedroom houses in this newly built country Manor House. Set within three and a half acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, complete with private tennis court, each home is specified to the highest standards.
For further details of this exclusive residence please call 01342 312 252.

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Every location is unique. Every home is different
1997 EVENING STANDARD NEW HOMES AWARDS OVERALL WINNER

S

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

DULWICH Boarders SE23, 6 bed, Det. Edw. 3 recep. £299,950. F/H. Bushells 0181 299 1722.

KENNINGTON/OVAL SW8. Attractive three bed, two recep, three storey period house with org features, garden, gch. 0171 820 0123.

LOFT SPACES, SE17. Just released, only 6 huge shell finished loft-style apts in converted Victorian warehouse & pub. 2 apts with terraces. Beautiful period architecture. 1,000 sqft - 2,650 sqft. Prices from £85k. View this weekend (Sat & Sun 11am-4pm) Michael Kalmar & Ptnrs 0171 403 0600

ST GABRIELS MANOR, Myatts Fields SE5 A luxury two bedroom apartment within an impressive period building leasehold £134,950. Ludlow Thompson 0171 820 0123

WEST PURLEY CR8, Adjacent to Webb Estate, 7 mins to mainline stn. Interesting, bright, split level hse in mature gdn. 4 bed, 2 bath, 1 ens, 3 rec, kitchen, utility, dble gge, loft. £275,000 ino. 0181 6686627

BLACKHEATH

PRIVATE Cator estate, Architect desgd extended 3 bed Span hse, power sho, mature gdn. £140,000. 0181 8529063

WEST END

WC1 1 bed, port blk. 5th flr. lift. Sth facing. nr tube £137,500 Banbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

WC1 2 bed. ex-local, good cond. 118yr lse. nr tube £125,000 Banbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

WC1 2 bed. port blk. 3rd flr. lift. 111yr lse. nr tube £189,950. Banbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

WC1 2 bed. port blk. 4th flr. lift. 81yr lse. nr tube £193,000. Banbury & Ball 0171 833 4466.

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WAPPING E1, Warehouse Conversion With 29' Reception Room, Two Beds, Bathroom + Shower Rooms, Parking, 24 Hour Porter L/hold 0171 480 6815

WAPPING E1, 1 Bed Apt Overlooking Thames, 20' Reception, Balcony, Leisure Centre (Pool/Gym/Sauna Etc.), 24 Hour Porter £155,000 L/hold 0171 480 6815

WAPPING E1, 1 Bedroom Apartment With Spiral Staircase And Gallaried Bedroom, Ensuite Bathrooom And Guest Cloakroom, Parking. £104,995 L/hold 0171 480 6815

WAPPING E1. Large 1 bed Appt in Prestigious Warehouse Conversion. Recently redecorated. U/G parking. 24hr porterage. £119,995. 0171 488 0955. 0370 833569.

WAPPING E1, Two Bed Maisonette With Private Patio Garden, Garage And Parking Space £149,995 L/hold 0171 480 6815

WAPPING, Two Bedroom overlooking Canal, Parking. £122,000 L/hold 0171 480 6815

HOBBS COURT
Mill Street, SE1
Top floor commercial unit (3,500 sq ft) inc 400 sq ft studio apt. Planning Granted For 2 Penthouses
1. 1800 sq ft 3 bed,
3 bath + 200 sq ft roof terrace
2. 1200 sq ft 2 bed,
2 bath + 200 sq ft roof terrace
£315,000 L/H.
THE LOFT, Lloyds Wharf SE1
Penthouse 3 bed, 3 bath apt (2,100 sq ft +). Classic warehouse conv. Original exposed features, sec pkg, 1300 sq ft roof terrace
£425,000 L/H
0171 680 0222

FULHAM

DAWES ROAD SW6. Attractive 1 bed garden flat. New kitch. Close Fulham Broadway Tube. £125,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666.

FULHAM Trendy 1 bed apartment, wood floors, roof terrace. £135,000. 0171 385 4131.

HURLINGHAM RD SW6. 2 bed gdn flat, 1/2 bath, lge recp, hand built kit, s.wood flrs. To be comp. Jan 98. S.O.F. £235,000.

PARSONS GREEN. Freehold lettings investment with gdn. £165,000. Harrington Lowndes. 0171 736 7272.

ROSALINE ROAD SW6. 3 bedroom house, dble recep, rear patio, cosmetic attention needed. £249,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666.

ST DIONIS RD - Parsons Green. Newly dec'd large 4 dble bed house, dble recep, large kit, 60' gdn, mins to Tube. £395,000. Tel: 0171 610 6666.

WANDSWORTH BRIDGE RD SW6. 2 maisonettes avail, 3 dble bdrms, excel dec order. Large Receps. £220,000, £239,000 (garden). Tel: 0171 610 6666.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE In Parsons Green.

Arranged over 3 floors. Recently redecorated throughout in BRIGHT colours. 3 large bedrooms with 2 outstanding bathrooms. Large double reception and very spacious kitchen. A good sized cellar. Paved patio. garden. A minutes walk from Parsons Green tube.
Serious enquires only.
£405,000.
Tel: 0171 736 8947

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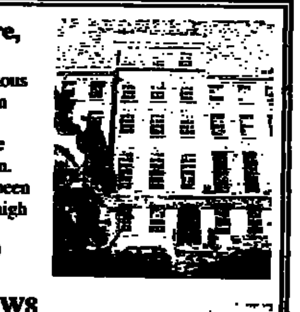
CHELSEA/ Worlds End. Excellent, spacious, 2 bedroom flat with River view. Recently refurbished, interesting layout, hardwood flooring. Ex-local authority. Cash buyers only. £145,000. 0181 9976539

CHELSEA REACH 2 bedrm houseboat, lge sun deck gas c. heat £98,000 0171 371 6721 Agt.

CHELSEA SW3 For sale by Auction. Long lease lower g/f 2 bed flat. Cheyne conservation area. Athawes 0181 992 0056

Dorset Square, NW1



A selection of prestigious one and three bedroom apartments set in this attractive period house overlooking the garden. The apartments have been refurbished to a very high specification.
Prices from £200,000 to £450,000

Lord's View, NW8

A Spectacular two bedroom, two Bathroom penthouse apartment. Situated in this popular block. Overlooking Lord's Cricket Ground.
Leasehold: £325,000

St John's Wood, NW8

The luxury development of one, two and three bedroom apartments newly furnished to a very high standard.
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For further information Please contact:
Rockdell
Property Management
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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

COLEHERNE MANS SW5 2nd flr 1 bed flat, 18' wood floor recep, sep dining area 10' ceilings. £219,000 S/F Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838f

EARDLEY CRES SW5 Bright lower ground 2 bed 2 bath 1 recep flat with 40' private gdn. £250,000 L/H Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838f

EARLS CRT SQ SW5 1st flr 4 bed 2 bath, dble recep & balcony o/looking communal gardens. £425,000. L/H Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838f

HOLLAND PARK Area Substantial period 3bd hse, gdn, 26ft recep FH £275,000 0171 221 9044 T

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LONGRIDGE RD SW5 2 bed 1 bath high ceiling reception raised grnd floor flat & gdn. £195,000. L/H Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911: 244 9838f

VICTORIAN 3 Storey 4 bed house, South facing garden, needs full refurb. £325,000. 01306 621443 or 0181 7409933

HYDE PARK GATE LONDON SW7

Imposing freehold Grade II listed corner building adj. to Albert Hall & directly opp Kensington Gardens now under refurbishment for sale with vacant 3,300sq ft (306 sq m) penthouse inc terraces.
OIRO £1,750,000
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Newly refurbished to high standard, exceptionally light and spacious property over 3 floors. double reception, fitted kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. cloakroom, study/bedroom 4. private garden.
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Angela Stanley
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GROSVENOR SQUARE outlook. Spacious 1,000 sq ft 2 bed (1 dble, 1 single) flat in small block with lift and resident caretaker. New 112 yr lse. Price reduced for quick sale to £495,000. Sole Agents: J Trevor & Webster 0171 629 8151.

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NEWLY REFURBISHED 3 bed 3 reception, bespoke kitchen, 2 bathroom period house with large roof terrace, Ossington St, minutes from tube. Seeking a quick sale. £450K ono. Tel: 0802 210863. No Agents

NOTTING HILL Trendy 2 bed, 2 bath, mais. with study & wood flrs. £395,000. 0171 385 4131.

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ON THE HILL Church Rd modern 1st floor 2 bedrs garage balcony £145,000 0171 371 6721 Agent.

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off KEW GREEN, Priory Rd

Beautiful Edwardian hse:
5 dble beds, 2 baths (1 ensuite)
large recep room, cellar.
Garden room. SW facing gdn
close to tube. No chain
Lock out agreement flexible compl date
Private sale. No agents please
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£350,000
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Attractive, secure 1st floor flat recently refurbished. 2 dble bedrooms in converted Victorian House with many original features. High ceilings, stripped original floors, gas fire. New beech Kitchen, with stainless steel appliances. Large bathroom with power shower. GFCH. Quiet road, village 300 yds. Tube 10mins walk. £162,500. 110 yr lease. 0181 8765562

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NR BISLEY An idyllic secluded cottage in woods. Views to Slad Valley. 3 bedrooms. Guide price £285,000. Jackson-Stops & Staff. (01285) 653334.

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Hollinthwaite
Idyllic 17th Century Lakeland cottage above Ullswater
4 Beds, 3 Acres
£198,000
Agents: PF&K Plc, Penrith
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DARTMOUTH Superb views river & town. Detached 6 bedroom, 4 storey family home, arranged top flat 2 beds, bottom flat 1 bed. Ideal Granny flat & guest accom. Gas C/H. Garden with Apple & Pear trees. Garage. £260,000. 0171 607 0620

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Elegant Georgian town house, newly refurbished 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom (1 en-suite). Cloakroom, 2 well proportioned reception rooms. 24' X 16' fully fitted kitchen/family room. Pretty walled garden & garage.
£375,000
including carpets & kitchen equipment.
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HAMPSHIRE

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Selborne 2 miles. Alton 5 miles.
A charming village cottage. Listed Grade II, in need of modernisation and improvement. Hall, sitting room, cloakroom, 2 bedrooms. Secluded garden.
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A substantial new executive home set in gardens of about 1.33 acres backing onto the course. 5 beds (4 suites), 4 receps plus games room over garaging.
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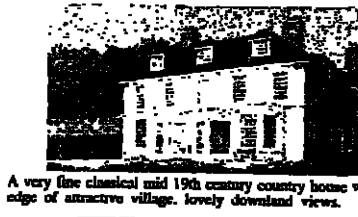
Petersfield 9 miles. Chichester 10 miles



A very fine classical mid 19th century country house with 20 acres, on edge of attractive village. lovely downland views.
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HEREFORDSHIRE

Modern residential farm, 3 miles East of Hereford. Attractive 3 bedroomed Farmhouse, service bungalow and extensive Farmbuildings. 136 acres mainly pasture land with frontage to River Lugg.
Price Guide: £575,000
Details from Russell Baldwin & Bright, 20 King St, Hereford. HR4 9D.
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Ref: MHR

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ALDENHAM Green Belt hamlet Last few lovingly restored barns. 2, 3 & 4 bed £219,500 to £435,000. Easy access to M1/M25 and Thameslink line. Tel: 01923 850308

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GRADE II Listed House in village of Detling. Well proportioned accommodation. 6 bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, delightful gardens £435,000. Contact GA Town & Country, Maidstone 01622 765 241

LARGE Detached Bungalow in ½ acre. 2 dble bed. Sec. bed area. Large sit/dining rm fitted kit. Util rm. Bath. Dble gge with studio workshop. Cov. patio area. Stunning views & gardens. Must be seen. £156,000. Tel:01304 830890

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TOWCESTER RETIREMENT FLAT

English Courtyard dev in mkt town very spacious 2 dble bed gdn flat. conservatory. gge. private patio to large maintained gardens - 24 hour manager service, open rural views. Near to shops - M1 J15a 10 mins.
Price £118,500 ono
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CHARLBURY Offers invited. Price Guide £152,000. A 4 bedroom terraced cottage with 124' mature garden. Easy reach main line station & shops. Contact: Fairfax & Co. Chipping Norton 01608 644808

LONG COMPTON Nr Chipping Norton, Oxon £220,000. A Cotswold stone period farmhouse with 112' rear gdn & countryside views. Many character features. Fairfax & Co. Chipping Norton 01608 644808

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GEORGIAN Country Hse. Apt comprising hall, original drawing rm, kit/ bkfst rm, 3 beds, bath with shwr, sep toilet. Lovely sheltered gdns, vicinity of excel Golf Courses, beaches, walks, sailing. Inverness 35 mls. Offers £55-60,000. 01862 851316

UNIQUE Coastal property close to Aberdeen & Ellon. An ideal 3 double bedroom family home with stables, gardens and grazing land. Must be viewed to appreciate. Tel: 01358 743891

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WOODBRIDGE Grade II listed 3 bedroom cottage between the Thoroughfare and River. Ideal for holiday or weekend use c.£72,500. Neal Sons & Fletcher 01394 382263

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COUNTY HOMESEARCH CO For a brochure & discussion on how we can find & secure your ideal property 01344 876991.

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SURREY

EWELL Grade II listed 3 storey, 3 bedrm house restored & decorated in a style designed to enhance the character features £149,950. 01737 353006

THE GREEN, Ewell Downs. Det. prop in sought after prvte rd. location. Gas C.H., Mstr Bed With en-suite, 3/4 further beds, sewing rm, loft rm/bed 5, Fam.Bathrm., 3 Receps, Hobbies Rm/Sun Loggia, Kit, Utility, Clkrm., Dble & Sing Gge, Gdn. Approx. 148' x 62', Carriage Drive, Main Line Stn - London 25 mins. £395,000 Freehold Contact Greenfield & Co. 0181 393 0077

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New 2 bed apartment in courtyard setting. Facilities include floodlit tennis courts, indoor pool, 50 acres grounds, security gates, garage, fitted kitchen.
For sale: £180,000
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Lovely four bedroom, two bathroom terraced house with mooring. Fully furnished to high standard. Also 33" Fairline Targa day boat with twin Volvo engines in excellent condition. English operatives available to look after house and boat. Ready to walk in!
£330,000
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RIVIERA

Super Cannes
At an altitude of 200m, the view over the Cap d'Antibes, the sea and the surrounding hills is great. The house, its design and quality of finishes, is spectacular. 2 main bedroom suites, each with bath and dressing, 2 further bedrooms, bathroom, hall, kitchen and an amazing reception area of sitting and dining room draped around 2 sides of a covered swimming pool, with bay windows and views all round. **Guest house** of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception, kitchen, 2 car garage. The house was built in '87/88 in grounds of 2350m².
Ref 028.
Freehold FF7.5 million

Super Cannes
Altitude: 180m. Site: 2640m². mostly flat. Views: 180° from Monaco mountains to the Iles de Lerins. The house is excellent, with a superb flat lawn, huge covered terrace, pool, pool house with sauna, barbecue and bar, all under cover, etc, all quality built in 1972 and immaculately maintained. 3 bedrooms, 3 en-suite baths (2 with dressing), big sitting room, dining room, huge hall with palatial cloaks, kitchen/breakfast room, cellar, covered parking for two cars. **Keeper's Cottage** - reception, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom. In a very up-market location, another seriously grown up house at a realistic 1997 price.
Ref 025.
Freehold FF7.8 million

Spéracèdes
In the hills (400m alt) between Grasse and St Cassien Lake with panoramic views all the way to Cannes and Isles de Lerins 20 km away. A spacious stone built house of character on a residential estate in grounds of 3180m², planted with olives, oaks and pines. 4 beds, 4 baths (1 with en-suite dressing), big 50m² recep with stone fireplace, dining room, kitchen, hall with cloaks, terraces, library in dovecote, 2 car garage. Built with care for a lover of stone. Estimate for pool available.
Ref 023.
Freehold FF5.5 million

Super Cannes
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Ref 021.
Freehold FF2.9 million

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PROPERTY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

Clarendon Lodge

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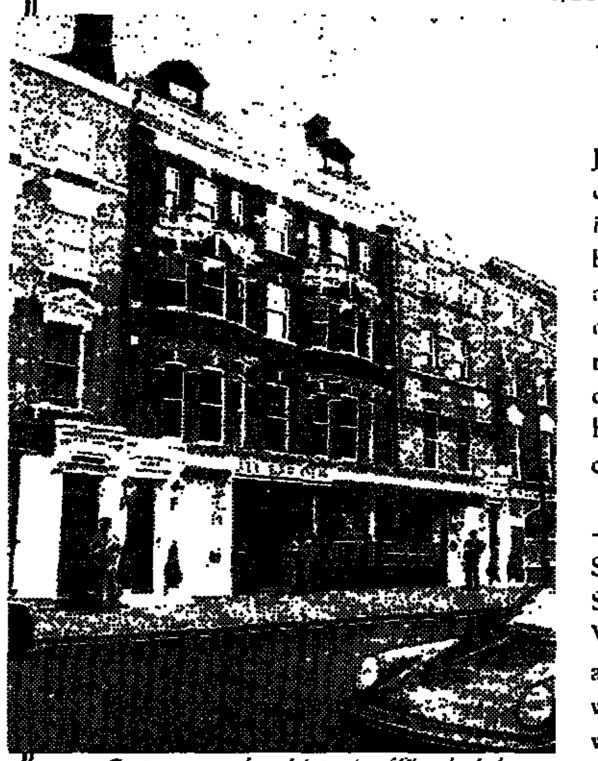

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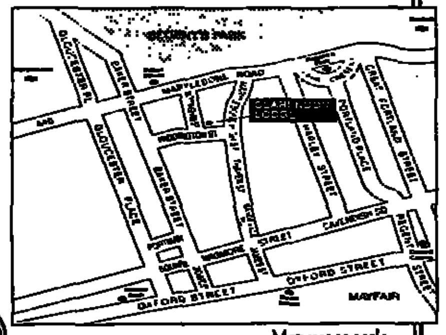

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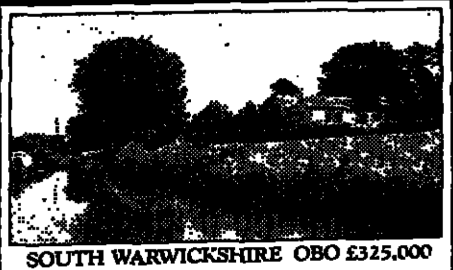

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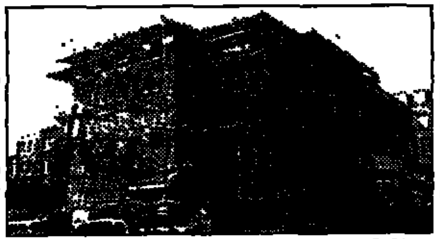

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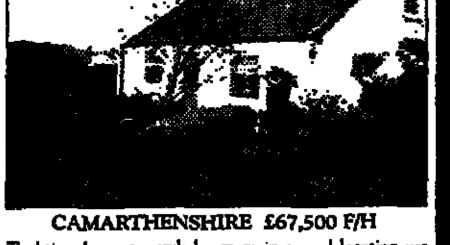

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GLATTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE £285,000
Charming rebuilt period residence set in excess of 2 acres of private grounds. Character accommodation with impressive high vaulted entrance hall, sittingroom, ding room, kitchen, utility, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden room/sep annexe.
Peter Lane & Partners, 60 High St, Huntingdon, Cambs. Tel: 01480 414800

WEST SQUARE, SE11 £475,000 F/H
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BECKENHAM, KENT OIRO £300,000 F/H
An impressive period home with extensive accommodation over three floors. 70' walled garden, garage, conservatory, about 1/2 mile from Beckenham High Street. Must be viewed.
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It is possible to use an agent to sell your house and then 'forget' to pay the commission, says **Tom Rowland**

Reception room as decorated by Yates; note the leopardskin rug

Now we can feel sorry for estate agents

Double-fronted house in Clapham, south London, bought by Yates after she had separated from Bob Geldof, her then husband

On the move: Paula Yates

> 'We are still waiting; it is annoying seeing pictures of her in her luxury home and off jet-setting while our bill is ignored'

Paula Yates, former wife of Bob Geldof and mother of four exotically named daughters (remember the youngest, little Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily?), has pioneered what could be a disturbing new trend in house selling. She has discovered a way of pocketing nearly the entire selling price and keeping the estate agent who negotiated the deal waiting indefinitely for most of his commission.

Try this trick with other bills and before long you can expect a stream of nasty letters threatening legal action. But it is surprising how remarkably understanding that much-maligned breed of estate agents become when faced with a client who does not pay up. It is the modern equivalent of neglected Edwardian tailors who waited for months for a pittance from their clients.

In June last year the former television presenter sold her double-fronted period house in Clapham, south London, for £480,000; a year and three months on she still owes the agent £11,689.54 in unpaid commission and interest payments. The remarkable patience of Battersea estate agent Ivor Dickinson, managing director of Douglas & Gordon, has been tested to the full.

He says there is little prospect of recovering the money but he is still reluctant to sue.

In most house sales the agent's commission is deducted by the solicitor who does the conveyance, but clients can insist that all the proceeds are passed on, leaving them to settle the agent's bill themselves. Which is what happened in this case. But the bill has not been fully paid.

"There is no point in suing in cases like this because if the client has not got the money we still end up with nothing," said Mr Dickinson.

"She was very happy with the service we gave her, in fact she was delighted. Initially I felt sorry for her, she had broken up with her husband and was being hounded by the tabloids at the time, and we were doing her a favour in not pressing for quick payment.

"But we have waited and waited and it is increasingly annoying seeing pictures of her climbing in and out of smart cars into her luxury Chelsea home and off jet-setting while we are ignored."

In June this year a firm of accountants retained by Yates sent a cheque for £6,920 in part-payment of the commission charge which stood at £15,820 before interest claimed for late payment under the agent's contract.

"We are asked by Ms Yates to apologise for the long delay in settling this account," said the letter from London accountants Lubbock Fine, agreeing that the debt should be paid. Money she had been waiting for had not arrived, explained the letter, but as soon as it did, "the balance of your account will be dealt with".

Since then Mr Dickinson has asked for his money on at least 11 occasions, but says he has been repeatedly stalled. "It is particularly annoying because we were joint agents on the sale and I have already paid Winkworths its 1 per cent cut on the £480,000," he said.

David Levy, senior partner of Lubbock Fine, said: "I suspect that Mr Dickinson will be paid in the fullness of time — I suspect, but I do not know."

Yates bought the house in Chelsham Road after separating from Geldof, her then husband. As part of her divorce deal she was allowed to move back into the former marital home in Chelsea with daughters Fifi Trixibelle, Peaches Honeyblossom and Little Pixie. Meanwhile Geldof moved around the corner into a small flat owned by Yates's lover, Michael Hutchence, the Australian rock singer whose child she was carrying.

The Clapham house was not easy to sell. Its lurid decoration was not to everybody's taste. Walls, woodwork and all the custom-made cupboards in the kitchen were painted bright red, while the reception room was purple with leopardskin rug and cushions and an elaborate wooden overmantle encrusted with brightly coloured shells.

The house has a double reception room, master bedroom suite with bathroom and dressing room attached and four further bedrooms. It was on the market for £550,000 but the offer of £480,000 was accepted after three months.

Yates was not available for comment.

OXFORDSHIRE – Langford Guide Price: £345,000
A Grade II listed stone built house of 17th Century origin in a delightful village setting. 4/6 bedrooms, 2/3 bathrooms, bed 6/dressing room, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, bed 5/music room, bed 3/cloakroom, barn, courtyard & gardens. About 0.12 ha (0.3 acres).
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522

JOHN D WOOD & CO.
LONDON AND COUNTRY ESTATE AGENTS ESTABLISHED 1872

DORSET – West Milton Guide Price: £375,000
An exceptional listed Georgian house, with an adjoining cottage & art studio. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, gardens, outbuildings with garage, loose box & playroom. *Joint Sole Agents: Peter Rudice 01823 327111*
WINCHESTER OFFICE: 01962 863131

WILTSHIRE – Baydon Guide Price: £240,000
A charming Grade II listed cottage, set high on the Marlborough Downs, with far flung views. 3 bedrooms, boxroom, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, garden room, kitchen, & gardens. About 0.2 ha (0.5 acres).
NEWBURY OFFICE: 01635 523225

MARKHAM STREET, SW3. Freehold £600,000
A double fronted period house which can be extended considerably, subject to consents, in this most attractive street. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, cellar & rear patio.
CHELSEA OFFICE: 0171 352 1484

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North London 0171-722 3336 Wimbledon & Surrey 0181-946 9447
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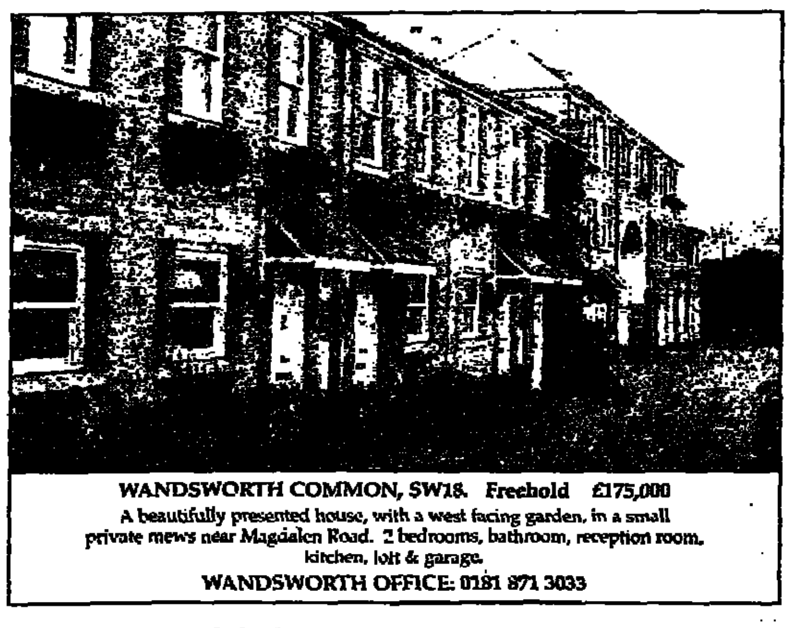
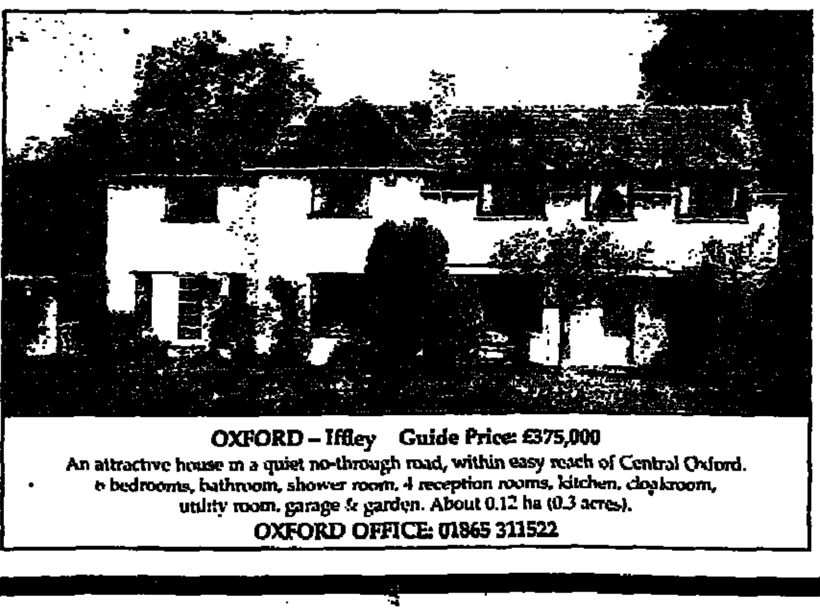
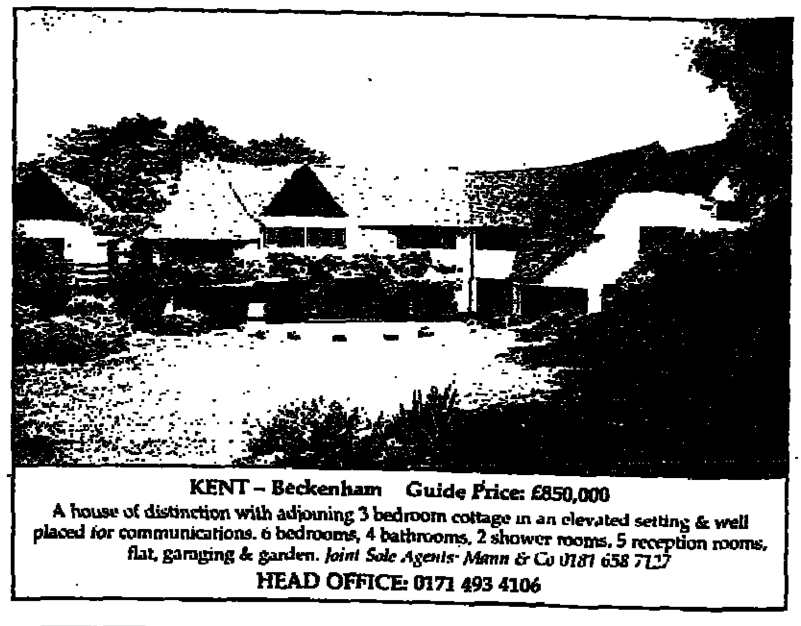
SCARSDALE STUDIOS, W8. Freehold £350,000
In a charming & secluded Victorian courtyard, a studio house with 1/2 bedrooms, bathroom, artist's studio with kitchen & study/bedroom 2.
Joint Sole Agents: Messrs Russell Simpson 0171 225 0277
KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705


WANDSWORTH COMMON, SW18. Freehold £175,000
A beautifully presented house, with a west facing garden, in a small private mews near Magdalen Road. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room, kitchen, loft & garage.
WANDSWORTH OFFICE: 0181 871 3033


OXFORD – Iffley Guide Price: £375,000
An attractive house in a quiet no-through road, within easy reach of Central Oxford. 6 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 4 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom, utility room, garage & garden. About 0.12 ha (0.3 acres).
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522


KENT – Beckenham Guide Price: £850,000
A house of distinction with adjoining 3 bedroom cottage in an elevated setting & well placed for communications. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 shower rooms, 5 reception rooms, flat, garaging & garden. *Joint Sole Agents: Mann & Co 0181 658 7127*
HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106

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There's nothing like a quick flash of purple

It's fun being a bishop, says **Bill Westwood** — and he should know

I see that bishops are in the *news again*. This time it is Liverpool and the new appointment there but it could be anywhere, for bishops still make stories.

Now, I find this strange. Alongside us are chairmen of Methodist districts, moderators of U.R.C. provinces and Roman Catholic bishops. They exercise leadership, carry hefty responsibilities and are men of stature. I am sure that they *make as many* mistakes as Anglican bishops. Yet the media hardly ever notice them. I suppose it is to do with the Establishment. Bishops of the Church of England have been about for quite a time and people are used to them.

Saint Paul wrote to Timothy: "If a man desires the office of bishop he desires a good thing", and although there is some argument about the exact translation of "bishop", I tend to agree with him.

I enjoyed being a bishop and I can still remember my shocked disbelief, when I was new, upon hearing a senior episcopal figure saying he wished he was a vicar again. I did not believe him then; I do not believe him now.

Of course, there are tiresome sides to the job. We found ourselves in a house with 11 rooms upstairs, ten downstairs, four bathrooms and seven lavatories. For a time we enjoyed the privilege but it was just too big and in a church pressed for money it did not seem right. In the event, we stayed on because no other use for the house could be found. There was the burden of expectation, not simply for "a few well-chosen words" but the more complicated assumption that you would be a certain sort of person to fit the role.

Sadly, too, the "dependency culture" seems to have entered the Church. I recollect that when I was a rural dean we were always delighted to welcome the bishop for he was a genuinely good man. We would be nice to him but we were glad to get on with the real job in our parishes as soon as he had gone. However, when I became a bishop I discovered one or two parishes even wanted me to choose the hymns. I fear I eventually took advantage of this and began to slide in some of my own favourites while banning *O Jesus I have promised* from confirmations and *Now thank we all our God* everywhere. This spirit of dependency has been increased by the General Synod which in every proposal found something extra for the bishop to do. Indeed, one reckoned that the Pastoral Measure — a law reorganising parishes to *ensure ministry in evey* inch of the land — had increased his workload by 10 to 15 per cent.

> 'When in doubt sit down, and if it moves, bless it'

However, as I reread these self-pitying paragraphs I thought of friends in business and government and medicine who were even more burdened. I had one thing going for me: I was happy as a bishop, I enjoyed it.

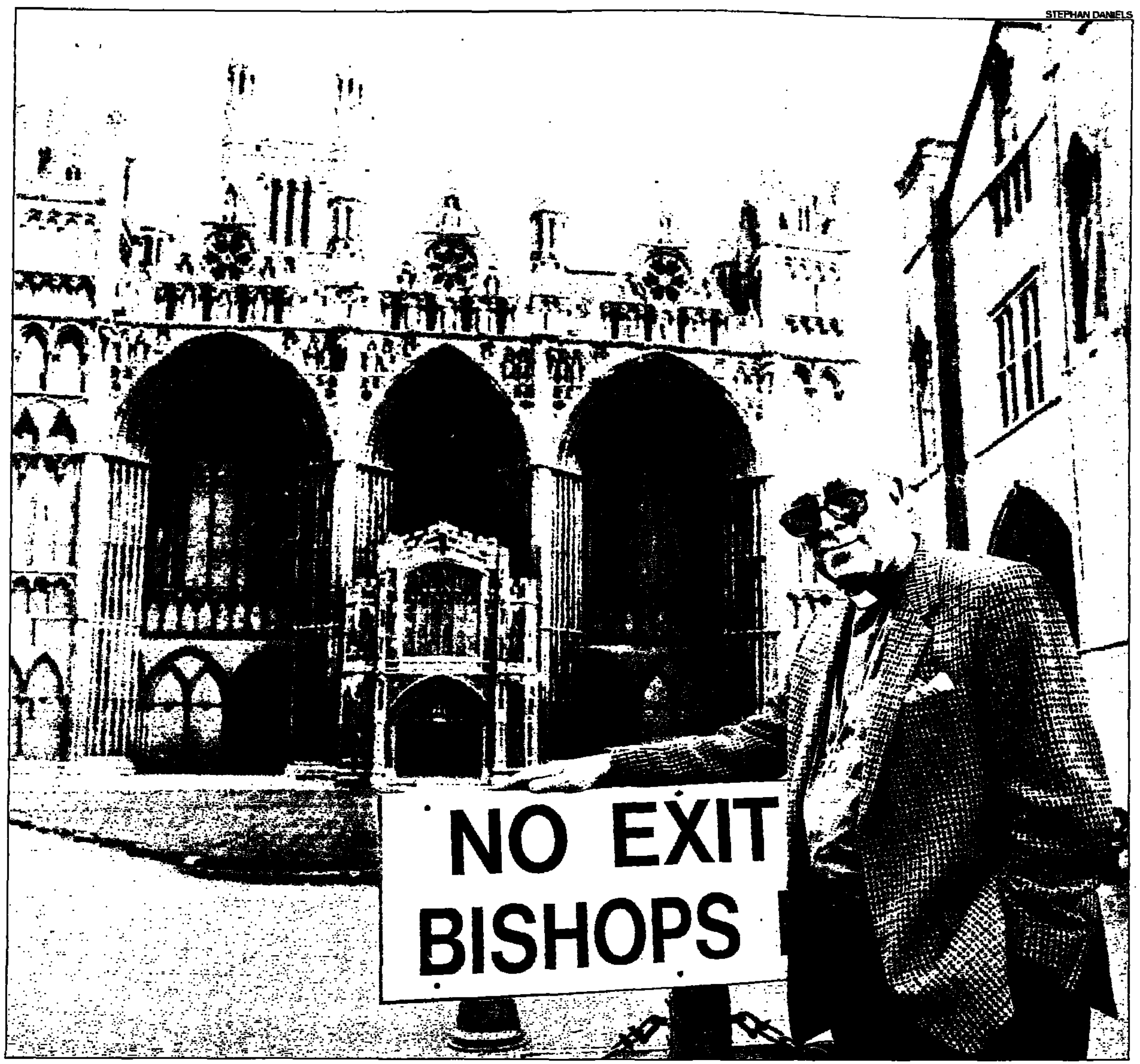
Even today, wearing a clerical collar opens doors for clergy. Wearing a dash of purple underneath seems to make them swing wider. I found myself truly welcomed in schools and hospitals, factories and town halls, stately homes and terraced houses. There were, of course, one or two horrendous exceptions when I was clearly the wrong person in the wrong place at the wrong time. But they were good for my soul, I am sure.

There were also wonderful surprises. I was asked to be president of the East of England Show. I opened a beer festival. I was invited to the Mobbs Memorial Match. I kicked off at a local football derby. I blessed schools and prisons, hospitals and law courts, halls and homes. I came to know the strength of the text that God so loved the world … and not just the Church. And I spent a lot of time with people who in confirmation or ordination were taking enormous spiritual steps in their lives, and with others grappling with the difficulties of faith in a godless world and I came to understand the secret of my happiness: I was privileged to stand by people in the happy normalities of their lives and also during their spiritual crises.

Nowadays, bishops on appointment get training and advice. It is a great improvement. My early days were rather more primitive but I still recall with pleasure the words of the late George Reindorp: "When in doubt, sit down, and if it moves, bless it." My advice to the new Bishop of Liverpool (whoever he may be) is equally succinct: enjoy it. If you do, there is a chance that your diocese might, as well. That could be good for Liverpool — and for the Church of England.

The Right Reverend Bill Westwood was Bishop of Peterborough, 1984-95.

STEPHAN DANIELS



Bishops, says the Right Reverend Bill Westwood, seem to attract more attention than other church leaders, but he has no regrets about his chosen vocation

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Credo

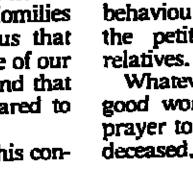
Thank heaven for purgatory

Professor John Haldane

Death sometimes approaches from afar, moving slowly but inevitably towards us. One may struggle in an effort to escape it, or try to prepare calmly for its embrace. At other times it strikes unannounced, hurling itself on its prey, who is given no last chance of leaving life well-ordered.

Knowledge of these facts was once deeply etched in the minds of religious believers. Homilies and prayers reminded us that the day and circumstance of our death were not known and that we should be ever prepared to meet our maker.

Two beliefs informed this constant reminder. First, that the ordering of events lies ultimately with God. Second, that there is a future life, our place in which will depend upon the quality of our present existence. We will die and we will be judged.



Prof Haldane: "Pray for them"

These facts are given in Christian revelation. What providence has also established, by the efficacy of grace, is the possibility of passing through death and judgment into the company of God in timeless eternity.

Belief in a future life is by no means confined to Christianity. The Romans spoke of "mors ianua vitae", "death, the gateway to life", and similar notions are found in earlier and later cultures.

In *Christianity, however*, a whole economy of eternity is presented. This eschatology is governed by the ideas of sin, redemption, grace and purification. St Paul writes that in Adam, all men fell (sin), but in Christ they are raised up again (redemption). This addresses the question of an inherited human tendency to turn away from God.

There remains, however, the problem of personal sin: that for which we are individually responsible, and which determines the condition of the soul at death and hence of the life hereafter.

Catholic teaching on these matters includes the doctrine of purgatory. Those who have died in a state of sin which is not so grave as to have destroyed the life of grace in their souls and thus to have excluded them forever from the company of God, *endure a period of purification* at the end of which they are fit to enter heaven.

Often purgatory has been conceived in terms of punishment, with the attendant idea of indulgences securing remission, "time off" for previous good behaviour, or obtained through the petitions of friends and relatives.

Whatever may be said about good works and the power of prayer to obtain benefits for the deceased, to think of purgatory as punishment risks misunderstanding its value and its role in *the economy of salvation*. In sinning we offend God and distance ourselves from him. Like wayward children refusing to be *guided by loving parents*, we damage ourselves by ignoring the word of God. Unless they are mortal, the self-inflicted wounds of sin can be healed, but that requires recognition of the wrong done, sincere repentance and a process of character reformation.

Short of a miracle, this process *cannot be achieved in an instant*. Personal sanctification is the work of a lifetime and the years allotted to us on earth may not prove sufficient.

Saints are few and far between. It is no kindness to exaggerate the virtues of the dead and not recognise that their failings may still burden them. True Christian charity requires that *we pray for the dead* — Diana, Princess of Wales and Mother Teresa included — asking that their sins be forgiven them.

The existence of purgatory is confirmation of God's mercy, not evidence of his desire to inflict punishment. Those souls who are there are not to be feared for, they are on their way to heaven.

● *John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.*

Virtue as well as vice in Miami

Ruth Gledhill finds sanctuary among worshippers at a Florida church surrounded by sand and sea

THIS warm, old New England-style congregational church was a blessed sanctuary *and felt like coming* home after the intolerable ice-cold atmosphere of air-conditioned hotel life in Miami and the hurricane-style winds and rain outside. *Preparing for worship*, we meditated on words of Henry Longfellow: "Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing … so on the ocean of life we pass and speak one another, *only a look and a voice*: then darkness and a silence." We meditated further on words from Alcuin: "Those people *should not* be listened to who keep saying the voice of the people is the voice of God, *since the riotousness of the* crowd is always very close to madness."

The pastor called us to worship: "We are parents and children, employees and employers, retirees and students." The congregation *responded: "We come from so* many different stations in life and yet when we are together here, we become as one body."

The Reverend William Koch

This service, like all Sunday *services, was being televised for* broadcast the following Sunday. Videos of previous services could be borrowed from the church library. Greeting cards and jewellery were on sale in Ye Olde *Gift Shoppe after the service. All* this media and commercial acitivity seemed only to augment the rock-like Protestant solidity which underpinned this church, surrounded by sand and sea.

The associate minister, the Rev William Koch, reminded us in his sermon of some of the more unpalatable gospel messages, such as the command to let the dead bury the dead, and the *message to the rich young man* that the only way to achieve perfection was to sell all he had and give the proceeds to the poor. "So often we lull ourselves into thinking that Jesus was a soft, comfortable person to be around," *he said. "Not true. There were* times when it was upsetting and distressing to be around him."

His uncompromising message, leavened with a joke or two, reflected the Calvinist origins of the Church by the Sea, affiliated to the United Church of Christ, which has 6,000 churches across America and the roots of which go *back to the country's early history*. The United Church was formed in 1957 with the union of two denominations, themselves formed from out of the Pilgrims of Plymouth Plantation of 1620, the Puritans of *the Massachusetts Bay Colony of* 1629 and congregations of Germans who settled in Pennsylvania from 1725 onwards.

The Church by the Sea is determinedly reformed, congrega*tional and evangelical. With an active ministry* to thousands of *poor and hungry* who call at its doors each year for help, and members who regularly donate both food and gifts, it is living *proof that in Miami there is virtue* as well as vice.

● *Church by the Sea, 501 96th St, Bal Harbour, Miami, Florida, 33154. Tel: 001 305 866-0321*

AT YOUR **SERVICE**

★ *A five-star guide* ★

PASTOR: Dr David Rees

ARCHITECTURE: Stunning white chapel on Miami seafront. ★★★★

SERMON: Erudite. ★★★

MUSIC & LITURGY: Traditional. ★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Sense of unity and freedom. ★★★★

Church Services tomorrow

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch; 6.30 Ch E.

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Rutter in D; 3.15 Ch E.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch Euch, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock); 3.15 Ch E; 5 Gosber; 7 Cathedral Concert.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Ch C, Darke in F; 3.30 Service for Speech Handicapped.

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart); 4 Ch E.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 Euch; Canon Hindley; 4 Ch E, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 M, Stanford in C; 3.30 E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Bairstow in E flat; 3.30 Ch E, Canon A Redfern.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Holy is the true light (Shepherd); 3.15 E; 6.30 Battle of Britain Commemoration Service.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch; 3 Battle of Britain Service, Canon C Hill.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch; 6 Ch E, How beauteous are their feet (Stanford).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch; 11.30 Ch M, Ireland in F; 3.30 Ch E; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch, Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd); 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon O'Donovan; 11.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley); 6 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch; 3.30 Ch Euch, Murrill in E.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Darke in F, Canon C Burch; 5 Ch E.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Prelude and Fugue in C (Bach), Mr A Flintham; 6 Ch E.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Canon M Perry; 11.15 HC, Canon S Pedley; 3.30 E, Ireland in F.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Canon D Green; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Eliensis (Wills); 3.45 E.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.15 M, Rev G Daxter; 3 E; 6.30 ES, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.15 Euch, Mass for Four Voices (Byrd); 3 E, Canon R Harrison.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Sancti Joannes de Deo (Haydn), Rev J G Clark; 11.15 M; 6.30 E.

HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M, Gaudent in coelis (Victoria); 3.30 E.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch, Schubert in G; 4 Ch E, Wise in E flat; 6.30 Gartree II Deanery Festival.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart); 3.30 E.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC; 3 Battle of Britain Memorial Service, Imperial March (Elgar).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, The Dean of Liverpool; 3 Ch E, Rev J Lynn; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Collegium Regale (Howells); 6.30 E, Rev R Parrish.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 E, O thou the central orb (Wood), Canon A Radcliffe.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Dyson in F; 6 Ch E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 Ch E, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Vaughan Williams in G; 10.30 Euch; 3.30 E.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch; 6.30 E, Strength ye the weak hands (Harris), Rev Dr P Elvy.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 9.30 Euch; 11.30 M, Darke in F; 12.30 Euch; 4.30 E; 5.30 Ch Euch, Rt Rev D Konstant.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch, Canon J Osborne; 11.30 M, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock); 3 E.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 E, Blair in B minor, Canon J Sinclair.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Messe solennelle (Vierne), Canon H Cunliffe; 3 Ch E.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 M; 3.15 E, O how glorious is the kingdom (Harwood).

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch; 6 E, Stanford in B flat.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 11 Service of Thanksgiving & Rededication for Battle of Britain; 3 E, Laudibus in sanctis (Byrd); 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; 11.15 S Euch, O sacrum convivium (Victoria); 3.30 E, Canon C Stewart.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch M, Benedicite omnia opera (Dyson), Rt Rev Dr B Morgan.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, 10 S Euch, Canon S Pettitt; 11.30 Ch M; 3.30 Ch E.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Aedes Christi (Mathias); 3.30 E.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 MS, Let thy merciful ears (Weelkes); 6 ES, Rev R Frazer.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, 3.15 Ch E, Dyson in D, Rev G Wood.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, *Ennismore Gardens, London*, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M, I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn), 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev D Bean.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 M, 11 M, Solemn Latin; 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 M.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service, Rev Millar.

THE ORATORY, *Brompton Road*, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH, Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, *City Road*, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths; 11 MS, Farewell to Hannah Faal (Mason).

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 HC, Harvest Festival; 6.30 ES, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch; 7 Bach Vespers, Cantana 114 (Bach), Rev R T Englund.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, 6.30 This Spiritual House - A Processional Sequence.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Ch M, 6.30 Ch E, Give us the wings of faith (Bullock), Canon J Oates.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 MS; 6.30 ES, Rev A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Quasi Cedrus (Guerrero).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mozart in C.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Sine Nomine (Bernabei), Rev D Lawson; 6 Ch E.

ST JOHN'S, *Stratford E15: 11 C*, Temple Suite (Stanley), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6.30 E, O quam gloriosum (Byrd), Rev C Kevill-Davies.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 C; 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, O Jesu Christ (Bach); *11.30 Visitors to London Service*, 2.45 Chinese Service; 5 Ch E; 6.30 Healing Service, The Vicar.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Rev L Pump.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 8 HC; 11 C, Hear the voice and prayer (Tallis); 6.30 E, Preb M McGowan.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 9, 11 Euch.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Stanford in C, Rev R Raikes.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M; 3.30 E, Let my prayer come up (Blow).

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Ubi Caritas (Durufle), The Chaplain.

A VET WRITES

Q **My six-month-old hamster used to wake at 8pm but since he stayed with my grandparents while we were on holiday it's 11pm before he stirs. Then he's awake for most of the night. The hamsters I see in pet shops are busy and active in the day. How can I make my hamster less nocturnal, so he's awake when I get home from school, without being cruel?**

A Syrian (Golden) hamsters are nocturnal — and solitary — animals. The ones in pet shops are less than eight weeks old. Like all young animals they're active and playful at inconvenient times. Before long it will be nearly dark when you get home from school. Then he will think it's night and time to get up. You could also persuade someone to fit a lighting system for your hampster, that comes on at 2am and goes off at about 8am. Then he'll have 15 hours of light in which to sleep (six electric, nine natural) and be raring to go in early evening.

Q **My half-Siamese cat Fang has a patch of greasy matted fur on his back, above the tail. A cat-breeder told me it was "stud tail" but I'm little wiser and Fang is neutered. What is it, and what can I do?**

A Stud tail occurs when there's an excessive production of sebum, the natural oil in a cat's coat. It's usually seen in un-neutered males, especially pure bred ones used for breeding. Hence the name, although neuters can be affected, too. It won't harm or distress Fang and is simply a cosmetic problem. Regular washing helps but use a shampoo suitable for cats. They can react to shampoos which are harmless to dogs.

Q **Bess, our black labrador, is a year old. She has a marvellous figure and we want her to stay like this. I read that 50 per cent of dogs are overweight, and many labradors I see in the park are fat. Can you suggest a "keep-slim" programme?**

A In six months' time Bess should weigh 65lb, and six months later should be no heavier.

At that stage 10 per cent less food will keep her svelte. Bring Bess up to enjoy a piece of apple or carrot and believe it's a reward for virtue.

If you take a firm approach you'll be able to write again in ten years to tell me Bess weighs 68lbs — allowing for an acceptable middle age spread.

JAMES ALLCOCK

ADOPT ME

Gentle and loving: Dibbs

DIBBS is a six-year-old black and white Staffordshire bull terrier cross that has been with the RSPCA since November last year. She is very affectionate and gentle and would make an excellent pet for anyone without young children or cats.

Contact the Blackberry Farm RSPCA centre, at Quainton, nr Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (01296 655073/4).

You don't have to be barking mad to wear the hair of the dog

Combings from a pet can be fashioned into a reminder of a furry friend, **Claire Horton-Bussey** writes

If you share your life with a black-and-tan coonhound, a doberman pinscher or a Staffordshire bull terrier, the latest pet-lover's craze from America will leave you cold. If, however, you are the proud owner of a Siberian husky, a Polish owczarek nizinny or a golden retriever you are in luck. As well as guarding your home and savaging your postman, your pet could provide you with a supply of scarves, mittens and tea cosies.

Yes, we are talking about an answer to "shedding", the dog-lover's euphemism for the great drifts of canine hair which clog up the vacuum cleaner, adhere tenaciously to your best velvet dress and garnish all the comfortable seats in the house. Now you can recycle all that hair into pullovers, hats and gloves.

Full instructions are provided in a "woof-to-warp" guide, *Knitting with Dog Hair* (Hutchinson, £6.99). Even if your pet's coat tends to be permanently matted with obscure and smelly bits of countryside, there is hope. The book's authors, Kendall Crolius and Anne Black Montgomery, are relentlessly encouraging.

Knitting dog hair is a centuries-old global phenomenon. You can even buy dog-hair sweaters in Estonia where they are believed to alleviate arthritis and rheumatism. If these benefits do not instantly convert you, Crolius and Montgomery remind us about the environmental advantages of not overloading landfills with dog hair, of saving electricity on vacuuming — and of course the whole family can join in because, they say, brushing the dog and spinning the fibres "is a terrific way to spend time together".

Having combed your Norwegian elkhound or Saint Bernard — and some owners may prefer to use a garden rake for this process — you should wash your harvest of fuzz. It is not necessary for a dog-hair jumper to actually smell of dog. As anyone whose dog has ever had a swim in the sea knows, wet-dog smell can empty a building faster than a fire alarm. The book offers useful tips about how not to clog the kitchen sink and then disappears into the intricacies of oiling, carding and blending the fibres, and spinning, plying, skeining and dyeing your yarns. It would probably be easier to get your granny from Shetland to do this bit.

If you have got this far without going barking mad, you can now make things.

One person who knows all about knitting with dog hair is Pam Gardner from Towcester, Northamptonshire, who started spinning her old English sheepdog's hair in the 1970s. Soon people were asking her to knit their own dogs' fur.

There's certainly a market for it — enough to keep Pam busy, although since spinning the average combing takes about 40 hours, she doesn't need many commissions to to keep her fully occupied.

Pam has used the hair from more than 30 breeds of dog. Some breeds have softer hair than others, and it also depends on which part of the body the hair comes from: the tail, for example, is often coarser than other parts.

Pam hasn't yet encountered fleas in the combings sent to her, but moths can be a problem. If she comes across an infested package, it's sent back with an apology and an explanation. "I just can't risk keeping it near the other samples," says Pam, who charges £8 to spin a 100 grams.

Carol Allen is also a veteran dog-hair knitter. Her passion started after a long-overdue grooming session on her blue merle Shetland sheepdog, Ash. Her inspiration came when she went to dispose of the huge pile of removed undercoat.

She felt the warmth and the softness and took a moment to really look at the beautiful mountains of fibre.

"There were so many pretty colours ranging from white, through to silver-blue, gun metal and charcoal. I couldn't bring myself to throw it away." So she didn't.

There's a big demand for knitters to make a memento from the fur of dogs that have died. People apparently take comfort in wearing a scarf or sweater made from their pet's coat. To make sure the memento is long-lasting, the fibre must be treated with care.

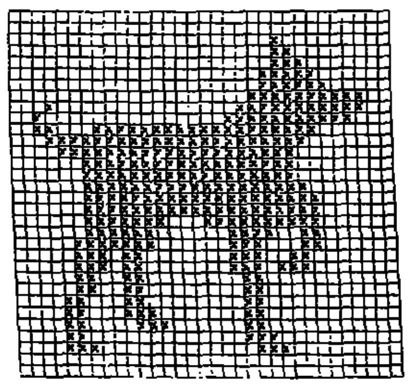
"It's washed when I've finished spinning it," says Pam, "but after that, I recommend people dry clean garments, unless they are very good at hand-washing. The wool becomes heavy when wet, and simply turning it over in the sink can stretch it — you can end up with a waistcoat down to your knees."

Some groomers have gone one step further, considering knitting with pet hair to be passé. Design-a-mat, one of the more unusual classes in the Eurogroom competition, an event held annually in west London to find the top European groomer, has seen many innovative uses for pets' shorn locks. Previous entries include a life-size model of a groomer, a map of the world where each country was made from the fur of an indigenous breed, even dog hair sculptures.

Sculptures made from the coat of a deceased pet are much sought after by bereaved owners hoping to immortalise Fido — and it's a lot less hassle than taxidermy.

As far as many pet owners are concerned, however, a garment made from their pet's coat has the advantage that they can still engage in physical contact with the departed pet. The warmth a scarf or jumper can offer creates more comfort than having a sculpture on a mantelpiece.

As the cover of *Knitting with Dog Hair* says: "Better a sweater from a dog you know and love, than from a sheep you'll never meet."



Pattern for a pet-hair knit, top, and the finished item

Wearer-friendly: dog-hair creations are becoming a craze

KNITTERS PET DREAMS

Dogs — most breeds
Angora rabbits
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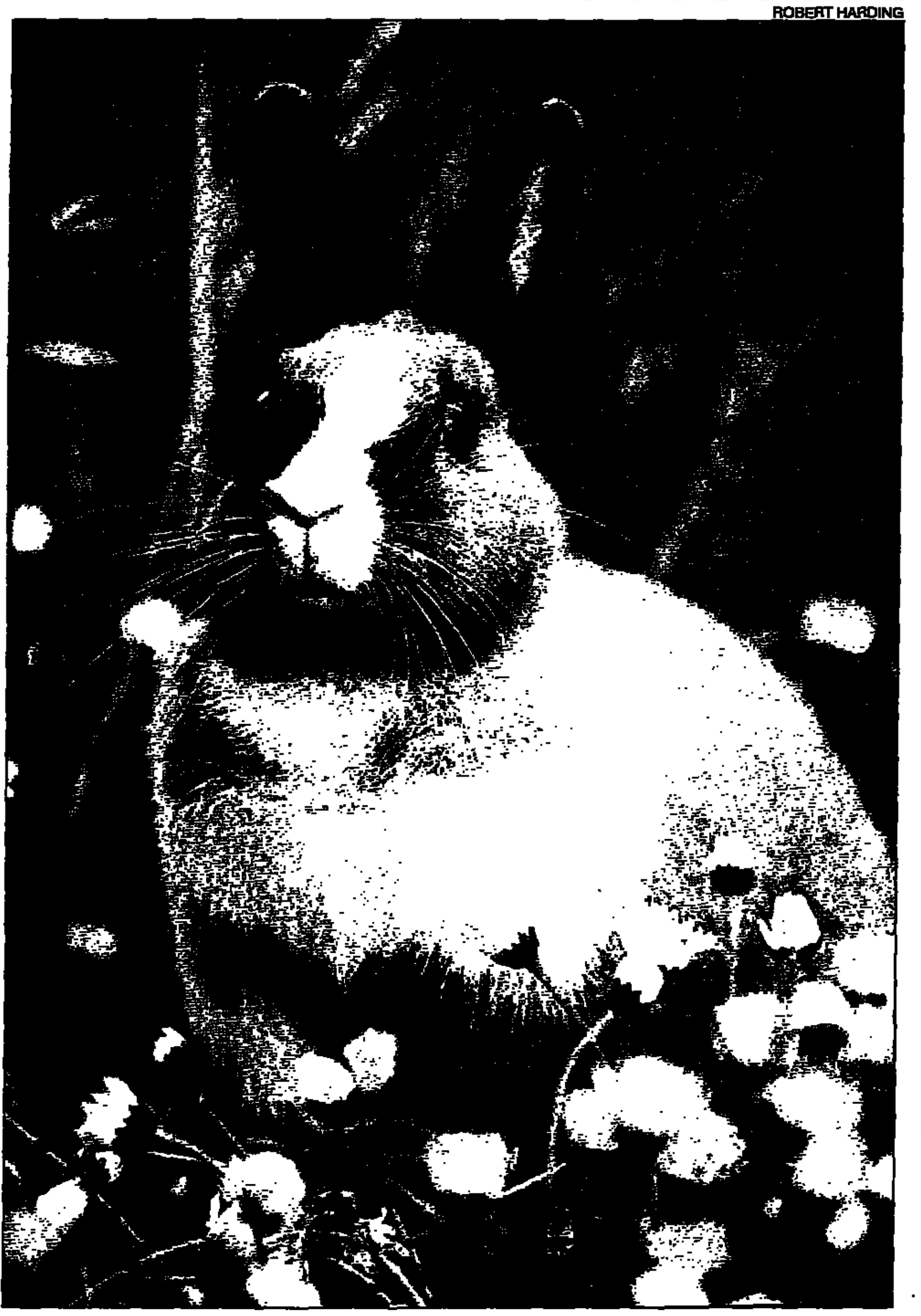

Smile: sunshine, greens and extra minerals will help to ensure your rabbit has healthy teeth

Buck teeth are a sign of bad eating habits

New research is challenging the view that dental problems in tame rabbits are inherited

The picky diet of a pet rabbit and a life hidden away in a shady hutch are proving to be the causes of dental disease, new research has found.

Many of Britain's rabbits are suffering from calcium deficiencies leading to nasty facial abscesses, rotten teeth and other related ailments.

The findings, which overturn the popular view on why so many pet rabbits need drastic dental treatment, have been made by Frances Harcourt-Brown, a vet based in Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

The popular view is that pet rabbits suffer either from inherited tooth disease or they do not have enough of the right things to chew. Rabbits need to gnaw away so that their chisel-like front teeth, or incisors, are ground down to allow new growth through.

"If you watch rabbits sitting in a hutch, they often grind their teeth together anyway, even when there is no food in the mouth. So I do not think this is a big issue," she says.

Instead Mrs Harcourt-Brown's research, published in the latest *Journal of Veterinary Postgraduate Clinical Study*, has looked at the levels of calcium in the average pet rabbit's diet. A small quantity of calcium is essential for healthy teeth and jaw bones.

Wild rabbits' diet includes grasses, weeds and dandelions, all of which contain some calcium.

Rabbit food from pet shops contains a wide variety of ingredients including cereals, peas, extruded wheat that looks like dog biscuits and pellets rich in calcium.

But Mrs Harcourt-Brown has found evidence that the pets often ignore the pellets and leave them at the bottom of the bowl, selecting instead the peas and cereals which "have virtually no calcium at all", she says.

Worse still, the foods the rabbits are picking out are often rich in phosphorus, an element which blocks the uptake of calcium.

Life in a shady hutch is aggravating the situation.

"Vitamin D is important for absorbing calcium from the diet. Wild rabbits run around in the sunshine all day and naturally make vitamin D from ultraviolet light, but most pet rabbits are in hutches all day long," says Mrs Harcourt-Brown. The research indicates that a rabbit suffering calcium deficiency will begin to show signs at 18 months.

Apart from decay and abscesses, rabbits' back teeth can develop sharp, needle-like structures that stick in the side of the tongue.

"This is very painful and can stop the rabbit from grooming; it will salivate a lot and stops eating. Because it is unable to groom properly, the pet may also get fly strike.

"These are maggots around the rear end and are very common," says the vet.

She has recently contacted pet food makers to see if they can reformulate feeds to tackle the problem.

Mrs Harcourt-Brown does not blame pet shops. "If they look up in the literature they will identify hereditary things or lack of things to chew. It has not filtered down to them yet."

She said rabbit owners whose pets are suffering from dental disease should try to enrich their diets with greens, like cauliflower, leaves, spinach, grasses and dandelions.

It might also be wise, especially with older rabbits addicted to pet shop food, to offer them only the calcium-rich pellets for a day or two.

Hay can also provide a source of vitamin D to help the uptake of calcium, she says.

NICK NUTTALL

A typical unhealthy mouth

TOOTHY FACTS

■ The teeth of rabbits grow throughout their lives, and are kept at the correct length by the upper teeth rubbing against the lower ones, *James Allcock writes.*
■ Growing teeth need calcium, phosphorus and Vitamin D. Without sufficient minerals, rabbits end up with soft teeth that wear too quickly.

At the other extreme, if the teeth don't meet — because one is missing or out of alignment — the tooth goes on growing and can prevent the rabbit's mouth closing.
■ Such a tooth would need to be cut back regularly.
■ For trouble-free teeth, rabbits need sunshine, green food and a quality mineral-supplement powder.

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هكذا من الاعلى

Swatted: a rethink is called for after readers were stung into action by an attack on an insect with an unpopular image

In defence of our friend the wasp

DOWN to EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

What follows is something of a U-turn in the face of overwhelming public opinion. A few weeks ago, I left you with little doubt as to where I stood in relation to the wasp. At an emotional level, I spared no words in describing my loathing of them: on a more philosophical level I suggested they "had no purpose", and questioned why they exist.

I now know the answer to both these questions, and if you read what follows and find you profoundly disagree and think I was right, then I advise you to place this newspaper over your head and keep quiet. Wasps have more, and more militant, friends than you think.

Let us get philosophical first. There were many letters which pursued the "all God's creatures" line of argument: the one that says wasps are part of creation, and therefore to be respected and not swatted. This is worrying, for the sentimental idea that *anything* that exists is worthy of protection leads ultimately to some difficult choices. Will the medical pages, for example, receive such a deluge of stinging letters when the HIV agents are eventually swatted by drugs? Will anyone campaign to build a rest home for the tuberculosis germ?

Of course, wasps are nuisances, not usually deadly. Even so, some of your letters make them out to be worthy of such respect and admiration that if one were to stand for Parliament, it would way outstrip Mr Hague and give Mr Blair a run for his money.

Ben Notley, of Dunkeld in Perthshire, writes: "Wasps do not just exist to satisfy their greed and to irritate people. Please have some sympathy for them. The ones you write about are *unemployed, starving and dying.*" He then explains the life cycle of the wasp. When autumn arrives, wasps do have a rough time: the queen ceases to lay, the males start to die. No wonder they get cross and sting.

I agree that the question, "what purpose do they have?" may have been naive. They exist, of course, to rid us of pests — such as old fish and chip papers. John Cooper of Woodbridge in Suffolk tells me: "I once saw a stream of white lumps apparently flying across Lynmouth Harbour. On tracing them back to the source I found it was the pavement by a fish and chip shop, where wasps were taking pieces of fish which people had dropped, and flying away with them, having removed the batter. This was admirable initiative for an insect." They also, of course, consume garden pests. They scoff greenfly although not, I gather, in quantities to make them as beneficial as, say, ladybirds. New research however is breeding "super wasps" with voracious appetites for greenfly, but even scientists admit they will only be of use within glasshouses, a fact for which all picnickers will give thanks. There I go again — being less than charitable to the wasp. Apologies! Let them all out, we'll love them!

In fact, the more of them there are in shops, the better. Prue ffrench Davis, writing from Navan in Co Meath, asks: "Have you never noticed that where there are wasps there are no bluebottles? In the last century butchers would seek out wasps' nests and move them to the proximity of their stalls. The wasps were apparently as good a deterrent to flies as the modern 'zappers'."

Some readers did suggest methods of control. No matter how tempting it is, I cannot recommend the approach taken by an old army friend of Reg Tarrant of Cambridge. When serving with the army in 1944, the company had a wasp problem in a nearby hedge. His friend enquired of the sergeant major: "Permission to deal with the wasps, sir?" "Certainly!". A hand grenade was lobbed — the wasps and the hedge disappeared!

More benign, but just as effective in controlling wasps, are badgers, according to His Honour Judge Hickman of Bovingdon, Hertfordshire, who, tells me that badgers like nothing better than a wasps' nest to devour. And so did a dog. Mrs Edith Grout of Exeter in Devon wrote: "I had a very alert Airedale called Mister Blaze who was an absolute wizard at catching wasps. Alas, he died last year."

So thank you for your letters. I offer you two views to ponder. The first comes from Dave Clark and Paul Atkin, keepers at the Invertebrate Conservation Centre at London Zoo. They tell me that not only are wasps formidable operators when it comes to control of caterpillars but they are also the "unseen undertakers of the animal world . . . and are the reason why we aren't constantly falling over dead bodies. It is rather sad that all animal endeavours have to be justified from the standpoint of their direct value to us humans. Also, wasps are a great example of the wondrous designs of natural selection."

You may also like to consider the view of R.V. Taylor of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, who comforts wasp swatters with the words: "Wasps exist for their own sakes, not for their usefulness to mankind. The same, of course, applies to humans, so you are at liberty to wage war on wasps if that is what they are doing to you. Just be sure you know why you are doing it, then you will be able to admire them even as you destroy them."

You can take sides if you wish. I shall not say a further word on the subject.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Browned off and sheepish

Wear whatever you like in the country — as long as it's brown or green

Farming folk have always had a style of their own

DRAPERS RECORD/HEATHER FAVELL

How not to dress if you want to join the country smart set: women-in-the-know wear quilted jackets over green cashmere sweaters, and jeans

The event was the sheep fair at the big landowner's house. We'd turned out, dressed, as we thought, reasonably smartly. My husband was wearing a bright blue shirt and navy trousers, I was wearing a yellow jumper I'm particularly fond of and a long patterned silk skirt. My two children were in their usual garish Next uniform of T-shirts and leggings. It soon became it apparent that we were wearing the wrong uniform for the country entirely.

As we browsed among the country folk, trying to look as if we belonged and as if we knew one end of a sheep from another, it became more and more apparent that we were way out of line in our bright townie clothes.

There is an etiquette to the art of country dressing. One wears clothes which are the colour of mud or moss. Within this spectrum, colours allowed are muted greens, greys and browns. Expressly not bright blue nor God forbid, yellow.

It isn't just the Barbour and Hunter wellies which give away your pedigree. This lies much more in subtle ways — the moss-green corduroys with slightly bald knees and brown brogues. Then there is the *de rigueur* country shirt. This is cream, with stripes of mud or moss. It has a soft texture and is worn with a body-warmer or green V-neck.

Sir Hardy Amies, *haut couturier* to assorted royals, knows all about country dressing. The Queen, for instance, is never happier than when she is dressed in a green quilted anorak with a silk scarf tied round her head. She epitomises the casual elegance of proper country dressing.

The Queen in country attire

Sir Hardy says: "There used to be strict rules about what country and town wear. The adage used to be, 'No brown in town.' All that has gone. People wear exactly what they would wear at their country estates when they're in town — and it looks extremely smart. My latest collection has suits and skirts in moss green and light brown. I think bright colours are slightly common, wherever you wear them, don't you?"

Oh dear. My yellow jumper may never get an outing again. Sir Hardy also says that the traditional materials of the country are still wool and tweed, designed to be tugged through hedges or to survive a tramp across a ploughed field. At the sheep fair I spotted a moss-green wool jacket. Couple this with a flat cap and you have the makings of the country gent. I eyed my husband. Could he get away with it?

The trouble is that if you were not born in the country and did not grow up surrounded by mud or moss clothes, it's hard to adapt. I know that if I bought him the country jacket, it would look too new, too stiff. It would look bogus. Sir Hardy says: "The importance of smart country dressing is quality. You can't do it on the cheap, because people can tell. But a good country outfit will last a lifetime." Aha! I knew it! Real country people don't buy their clothes, they are *handed down*. No wonder they never look new — they've been inherited. For women, there is also a kind of uniform. While not entirely adhering to the mud and moss routine, it is still pretty standard: velvet hairband, quilted jacket over a green cashmere sweater with pearls, jeans and navy-blue flat shoes with a gold buckle. And you have to smoke. All smart country women are very thin, smoke like chimneys and are all called Caroline.

When we got home, I eyed our respective wardrobes sadly. Clearly we have a lot to learn. My husband's wardrobe is full of suits. This is not acceptable because real country folk dress as if they never work. The only thing I could muster was a quilted jacket but when I looked at the label it was from Principles. Enough said.

All my clothes will have to go. There is a country outfitters in Bicester and I shall be taking us both off there. We will kit ourselves out in the full range of mud and moss, so we can hide in hedges without being seen by wildlife. I will change my name to Caroline, and take up smoking. Even our Range Rover is the wrong colour. It is a rather smart charcoal grey. It will have to be swapped for a dark green one. Where will it all end?

DIANA APPLEYARD

ON THE SPOT: ALDEBURGH

Rural recommendations

The place: Martello Tower, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

The view: To the east are steps leading down towards Aldeburgh Bay and to the right stands the solid Martello Tower, guarding the coast. Waves lap against the breakwaters and the North Sea spans the horizon.

The appeal: perfect for being at one with nature

Aficionados: Artists with their easels, yachting enthusiasts and walkers.

Historical interest: This is the most northerly of the towers built in 1810 as a defence against Napoleon, although possibly the only time it saw action was during the Second World War when it was an anti-aircraft post. More than a million bricks were used in the tower's construction and it is now owned, and rented out, by the Landmark Trust. It is the last remaining building of Slaughden, a village lost to the sea in the 1920s.

Time to visit: Almost any time is atmospheric.

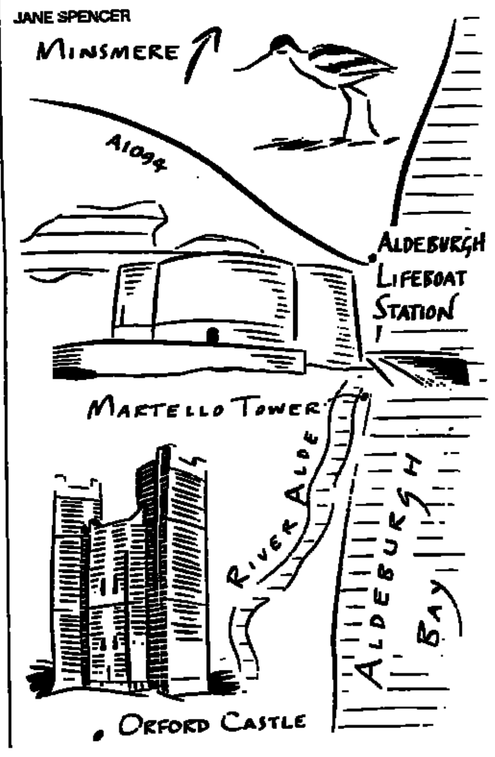
How to get there: The A1094 to Aldeburgh then continue along the coastal road to a car park.

OS reference: Sheet 156:463549.

Also nearby: Aldeburgh with its lifeboat station, magnificent views from Orford Castle and Minsmere RSPB Reserve, ten miles north.

DEBORAH KING

JANE SPENCER



Just messing about on the river

PETER BROWN

Teal numbers are being swelled by thousands flying in from the Baltic and Siberia

FEATHER REPORT

THE NEW sound in the countryside is the whistling of teal. These little duck nest in small numbers by quiet, marshy pools, especially in the northern half of Britain. Now they are spreading out to lowland lakes and rivers all over the country, and their numbers are being swelled by thousands more flying in from Iceland, the Baltic and Siberia.

They feed mostly along the reedy edges of lakes, and in the past were not often observed until they shot up into the sky in a tight-packed flock, making their characteristic soft, whistling notes. Now there are so many bird reserves furnished with hides, and situated in their favourite spots, that birdwatchers have become increasingly familiar with them.

The drakes are certainly among the prettiest of British birds, with a chestnut-coloured head and a green comma through the eye. At a distance, on the water, they can be picked out by the cream-coloured patch just in front of their tail. They belong to the group called the surface-feeding or dabbling duck, which means that, unlike pochards and tufted duck, they do not go diving for their food.

Instead, they swim along with their head under water, or their beak skimming the surface, feeding on pondweed and duckweed seeds or similar floating vegetable matter. They are a delightful sight when they go chuntering along like this. They can suck in water and extract the nutrients, then expel the water through the sides of their beak. They can even do this with their head underwater.

Also, they often "up-end" with their tails sticking vertically out of the water. You can see them doing this on the same lake with wigeon and mallards and mute swans — but what you cannot see is that the necks of the different species are all of different lengths, and they are all feeding in different layers of the water, with the satisfactory result that they do not compete with each other.

Teals are very opportunistic birds, moving round the country as new feeding places appear — for instance, they are quick to descend on flash floods in the fields. When it is very cold they will nip across the Channel, then come back when it warms up.

Attractive though they are on the water, I still think the view of them in flight is the best. They fly fast, their necks stretched out, and wheel and dive together with perfect co-ordination, like a flock of starlings or small waders. On their wings they have a metallic patch, or speculum, of green and black, outlined by two white lines, and it is thought that the glint of the light on this helps them to keep each other in view and stay close together.

Their way of flying is a good protection against enemies such as peregrine falcons, which like to focus on a solitary bird and swoop on it. Confronted by a fast-moving flock with no stragglers, the falcon finds it hard to choose its prey. As for the whistling, that seems to announce to the falcon: "We've seen you, and you're not going to take us by surprise!".

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Birders — Siskins, where there are trees. Twitchers — A Spotted Sandpiper at Long Drag Pools, North Teeside, a Pectoral Sandpiper at Tophill Low Nature Reserve, East Yorkshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.*

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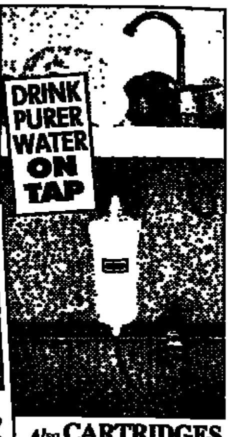

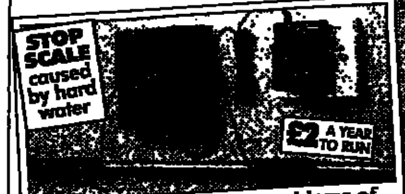

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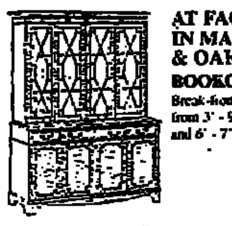

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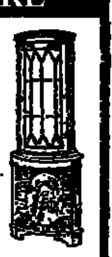

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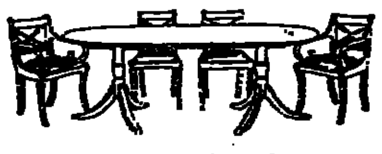

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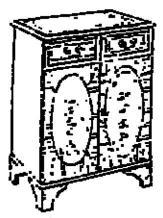

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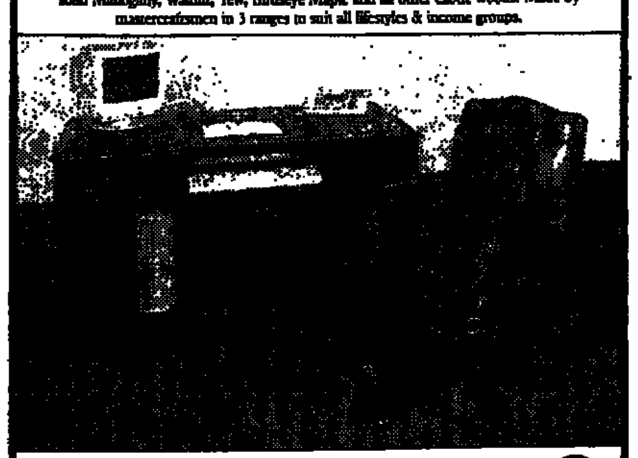

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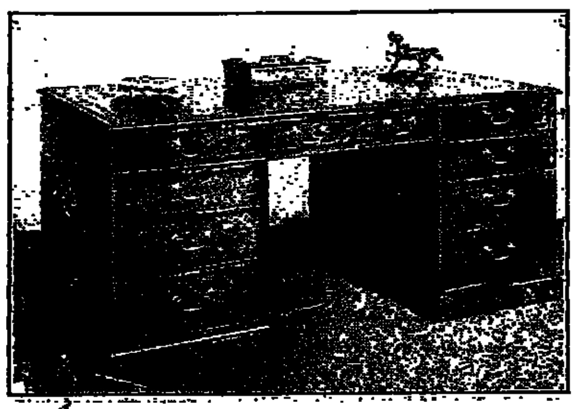

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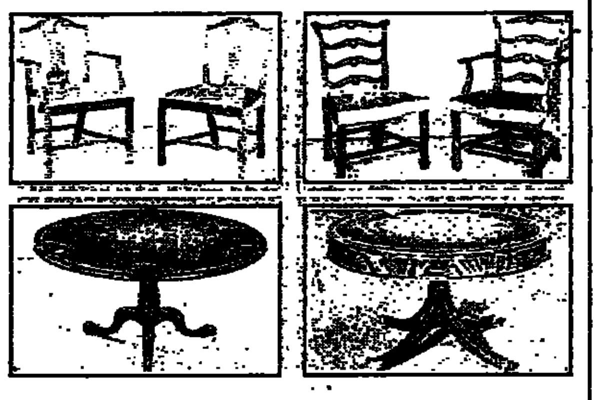

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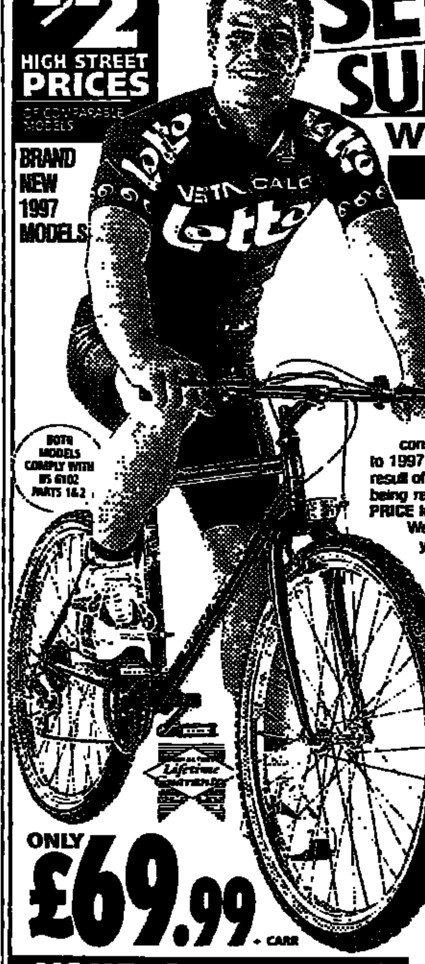
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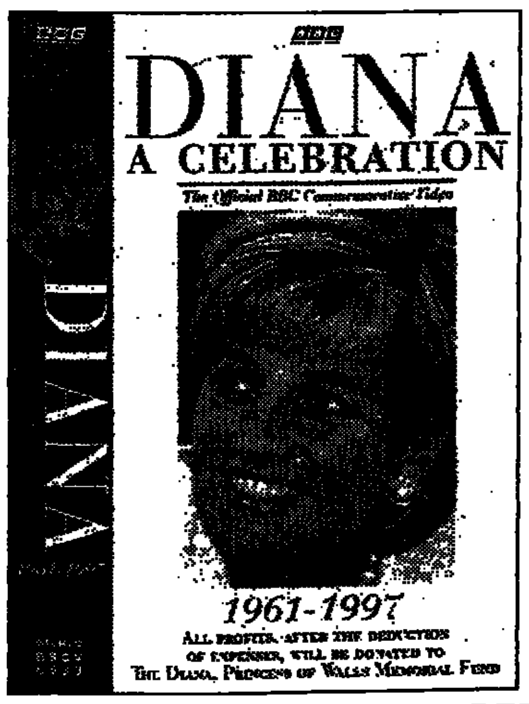
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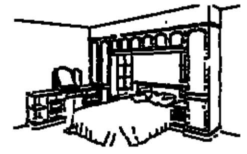

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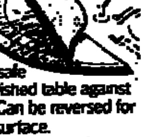

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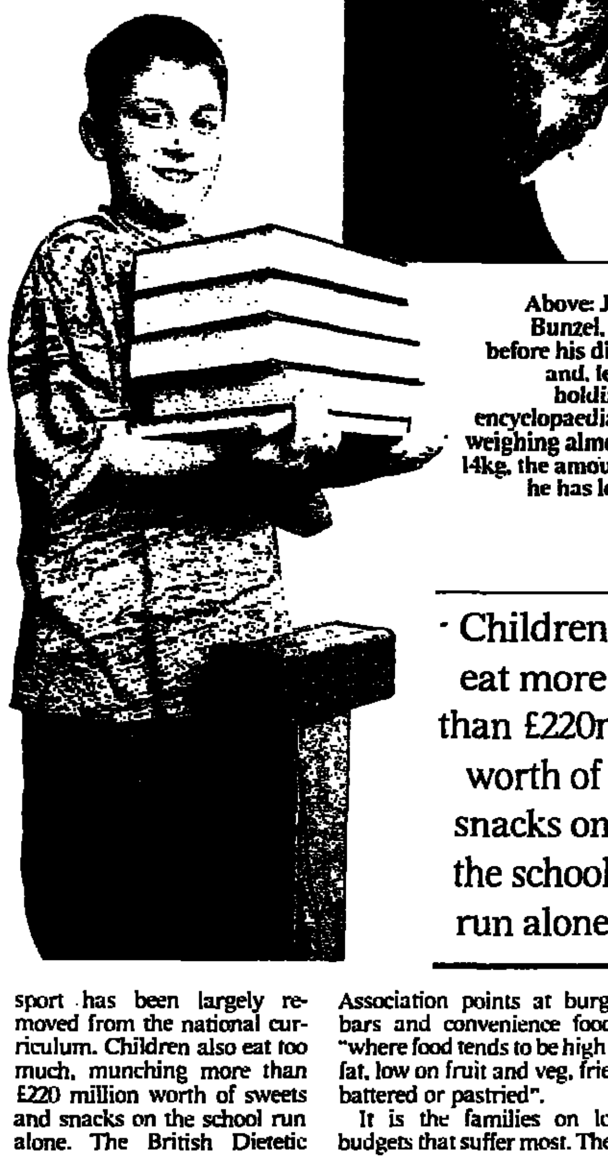
Fat kids on the block

Obese children risk ill health and ridicule, writes Madeleine Kingsley

DES JENSON



Above: Joe Bunzel, 11, before his diet, and, left, holding encyclopaedias, weighing almost 14kg, the amount he has lost

A short, fat 10-year-old was performing a "flying angel" at her school gym display. Up the springboard she clomped, bouncing over the horse into the beefcake arms of her PE master, who staggered back with a mock groan. The stout party collapsed in sobs as 60 pupils and their parents tittered.

As that child, I still squirm at the humiliation. I would like to think that children of this low-fat age are more lithe, more wisely fed, their feelings less trampled. But youthful avoirdupois is on the increase. A recent study in Shropshire by the *Health Visitor Journal* has found that obesity in five and six-year-olds has increased significantly over the past ten years. Some 2.5 per cent of children were obese in 1985; in 1995, 4 per cent were obese and 12.1 per cent were identified as "requiring surveillance".

Doctors and dieticians are worried about the effects on our health. The British Heart Foundation has found signs of heart disease in children as young as seven, and doctors have given a warning of an increasing likelihood of high blood pressure and cancer of the colon in later life. And despite role models such as the model Sophie Dahl and the comedian Dawn French, "fatties" are still condemned ruthlessly by their peers.

Lifestyle changes are largely *to blame for the teletubby* young: three out of five children watch more than two hours of television daily and sport has been largely removed from the national curriculum. Children also eat too much, munching more than £220 million worth of sweets and snacks on the school run alone. The British Dietetic Association points at burger bars and convenience foods, "where food tends to be high in fat, low on fruit and veg, fried, battered or pastried".

It is the families on low budgets that suffer most. Their prime concern, says a Child Poverty Action report, is buying food without waste. So they stick to what their children like (fish fingers, chips and sausages), saving on perishable fresh fruit and veg.

Britain has yet to resort to "fat camps" where sad young Americans are shut away for collective reduction, but nor do we have a concerted approach to fatness. Jackie Bernett, a state-registered dietician working in a private London practice, says parents are ill-informed and confused about their overweight children.

> Children eat more than £220m worth of snacks on the school run alone

There is no evidence to suggest that the roly-poly one-year-old will become a fat adult, she says — they shed the surplus when they start to crawl. But if you cannot find clothes to fit, or if your child has difficulty running upstairs, you should seek help from a dietician through your GP.

"I never talk about diets but involve them in what we call Jimmy or Sarah's plan," says Ms Bernett. "Praise and non-food rewards help them to keep to it. Eight-year-olds might get stars, with £1 from mum for the older ones." Addressing the exercise issue first, Ms Bernett focuses on the possible, "even if it's running round the garden rather than going out to rollerskate". Less rather than none is her friendly food rubric. "We agree to crisps at weekends only, fun-sized chocolate instead of large bars and in mum's cooking, olive oil brushed, not poured, in the pan."

Over the weeks, Ms Bernett looks for the child feeling happier in her own skin. "Maybe she can finally buy what she always longed to wear. Waistbands don't chafe. Feeling slimmer, the child is less likely to bunk off games because he's uncomfortable stripping off in the communal changing room."

One of her successes is Joe Bunzel, 11, from south London. Joe has reduced from 62kg to 48.2kg in nine months. His mother, Biddy, followed Ms Bernett's advice. "She re-educated my cooking so Joe no longer tucks into chicken in cream sauce," she says. "Now it's grilled chicken doused in soy sauce, or baked potatoes with stock cube gravy."

Lucky Joe. In my day the heavyweights' cure was segregated school lunches where spongy apples took the place of treacle pudding. "Is it glands or gorging?" our classmates quizzed. I would have given my last chocolate roll for a more enlightened springboard to slimming.

● *The British Dietetic Association, 7th Floor, Elizabeth House, 22 Suffolk Street, Queensway, Birmingham B1 1LS (0121-643 5483).*

PLAN CHECKLIST

- **Giving toddlers sweets to soothe tears or bruises can create a "comfort eating" habit. Give non-food rewards instead.**
- **Adding activity should take priority *over subtracting food.***
- **Stick to three meals a day. If the after-school starvation gap needs filling, offer fruit or fat-free jam sandwiches.**
- **Overweight children often shovel food in so fast they fail to give the brain *time to register they've had enough.* Slow them down by making meals more sociable, serving food eaten with a fork.**

Old friends and New Age pigeons

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

> 'Look! Flying Opal Fruits.' And so there were

The plan was, on Sunday, that we should go to visit my long-lost friend Jemima. I am not much in the habit of mislaying friends, especially close ones such as Jemima. In fact I keep a sharp eye on my acquaintances, and spend several evenings a month sitting in bed getting ink all over the sheets and writing screeds to Prague and Madrid and Paris and Norfolk, since what all the people I know seem to have in common is an inability to stay in London, where I can easily get at them.

I suppose the temporary loss of Jemima must be attributed to post-partum vagueness. Certainly she was there before Alexander came along and then, some time after he arrived, there she wasn't. I've never known a trail go so cold. No one at her old address, her former job, even the solicitors we both used, seemed to know where to find her.

We had met in our mid-twenties, at a small and rather eccentric publishing house, where we both worked as secretaries. This publisher had a tendency to employ in lowly clerical positions bookish girls who were wildly over-educated for the duties they were supposed to perform. Working there was rather like the descriptions of purgatory as a place where absolutely nothing happens, and it happens very, very slowly.

We all spent our time there draped listlessly over our typewriters in agonies of boredom, reviving only when it was our turn to update the endlessly fascinating saga of our love lives — most of us were grand romantics with a high turnover of young men who invariably broke our hearts. My friendship with Jemima was forged on the day we discovered, over *spaghetti alle vongole* and one too many glasses of wine at the local Italian caff, that we had both, at different times in our early youth, been very keen on the same young man.

Having mislaid her — and with her, a part of my past — in this careless fashion bothered me a good deal. But then, one day last month, the phone rang and a familiar drawl said Hi, it was Jemima, remember her? Shriek shriek, scream, scream, God, you sound *exactly the same*. Where *are* you? What are you *doing?* And so it was decided that we should go and visit her at the stately pile in the Cotswolds which it was currently her job to look after.

Alexander is not keen on visits to my girlfriends ("too much boring *talking*"), so I wasn't surprised, the morning we were due to drive up to Jemima's, to find him taking steps to subvert the day's plan — muttering darkly over a piece of paper inscribed with the words Secret Magick Spells.

Noting with some alarm that he favours the Aleister Crowley spelling of magic, I pointed out that spells are tricky things, and liable to turn unexpectly nasty. Today, for example, I had just decided that, on the way to see Jemima, we would attend mass at Christ Church Cathedral. Loud moans of dismay ensued. But by the time we arrived in Oxford, these had mysteriously subsided into a dignified silence. Having sat, speechless and immobile, through 90 minutes of plainchant, my son was then swept into a fervent embrace by the American lady sitting next to us, who said that words could not express her admiration for my child management skills. Feeling distinctly contrite, since these skills are heavily based on the techniques that the Cheka used to find so efficacious, I chivvied Alexander off towards lunch — hoping that somewhere among the acres in Jemima's care we might find something to amuse a small, bored child.

"Look!" said Alexander as we turned into the courtyard. "Flying Opal Fruits." And so there were. Wheeling above the car was a flock of startled pigeons. Not pigeon-coloured pigeons, but acid-trip pigeons in shades of turquoise, apricot, primrose and shocking pink. "Good Lord," I said to Jemima, who was strolling towards us, "don't they object?" "Not at all," said Jemima, airily. "They're used to it. We just pop them in a bath of dye every six months. They soon learn to keep their eyes shut."

What with the flying Opal Fruits, and the multi-coloured carpet of their feathers with which the lawns were covered, and the discovery of a dead hedgehog in the shrubbery — not to mention the fact that Jemima and I found ourselves warmly assuring each other that neither of us had Changed A Bit, the whole visit was an unqualified success.

I woke the next morning to the sound of muttered spells from Alexander's room. I didn't ask, but I suspect he was trying to do something about the drab and spavined pigeons that are all our own estate can boast.

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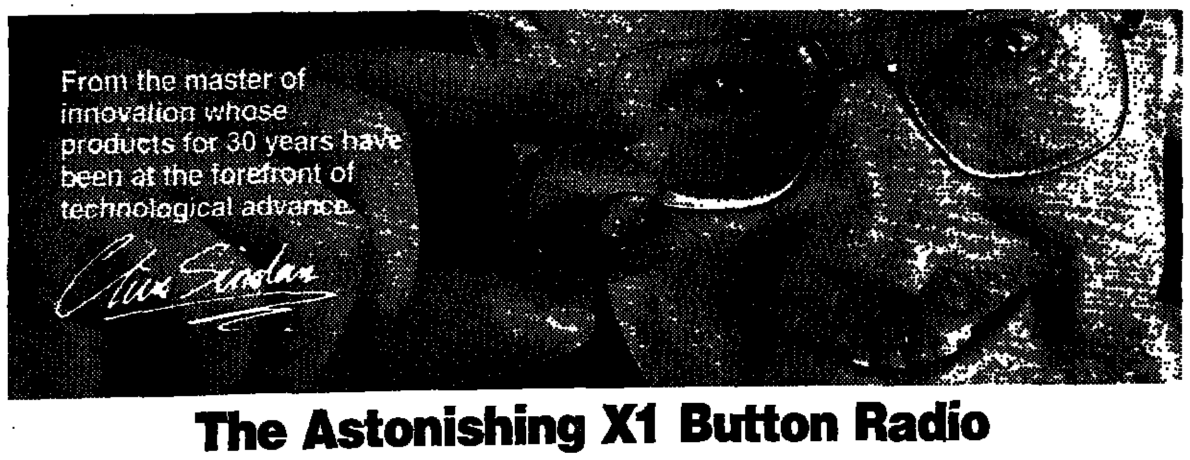

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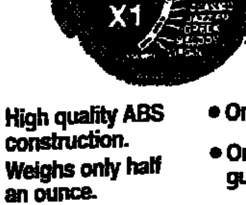

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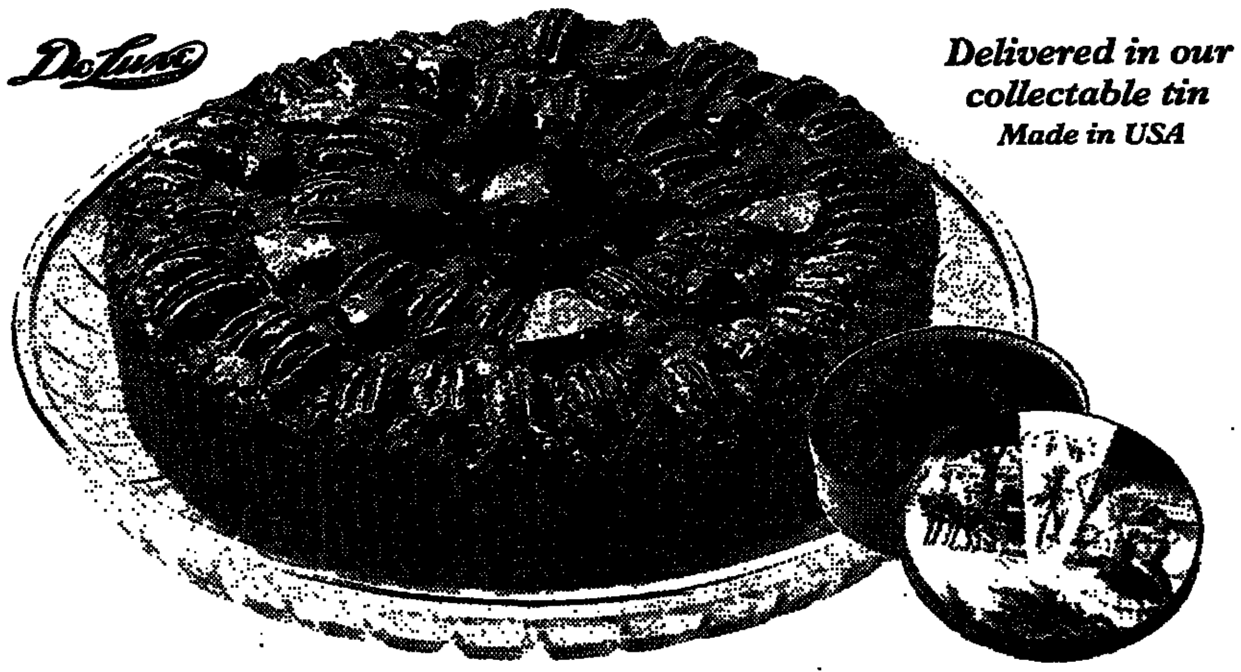

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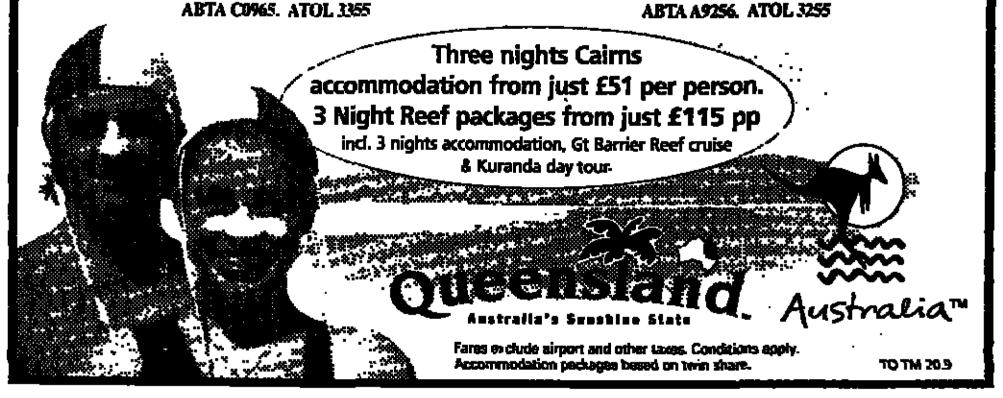

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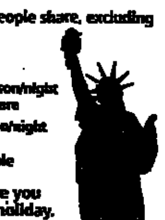

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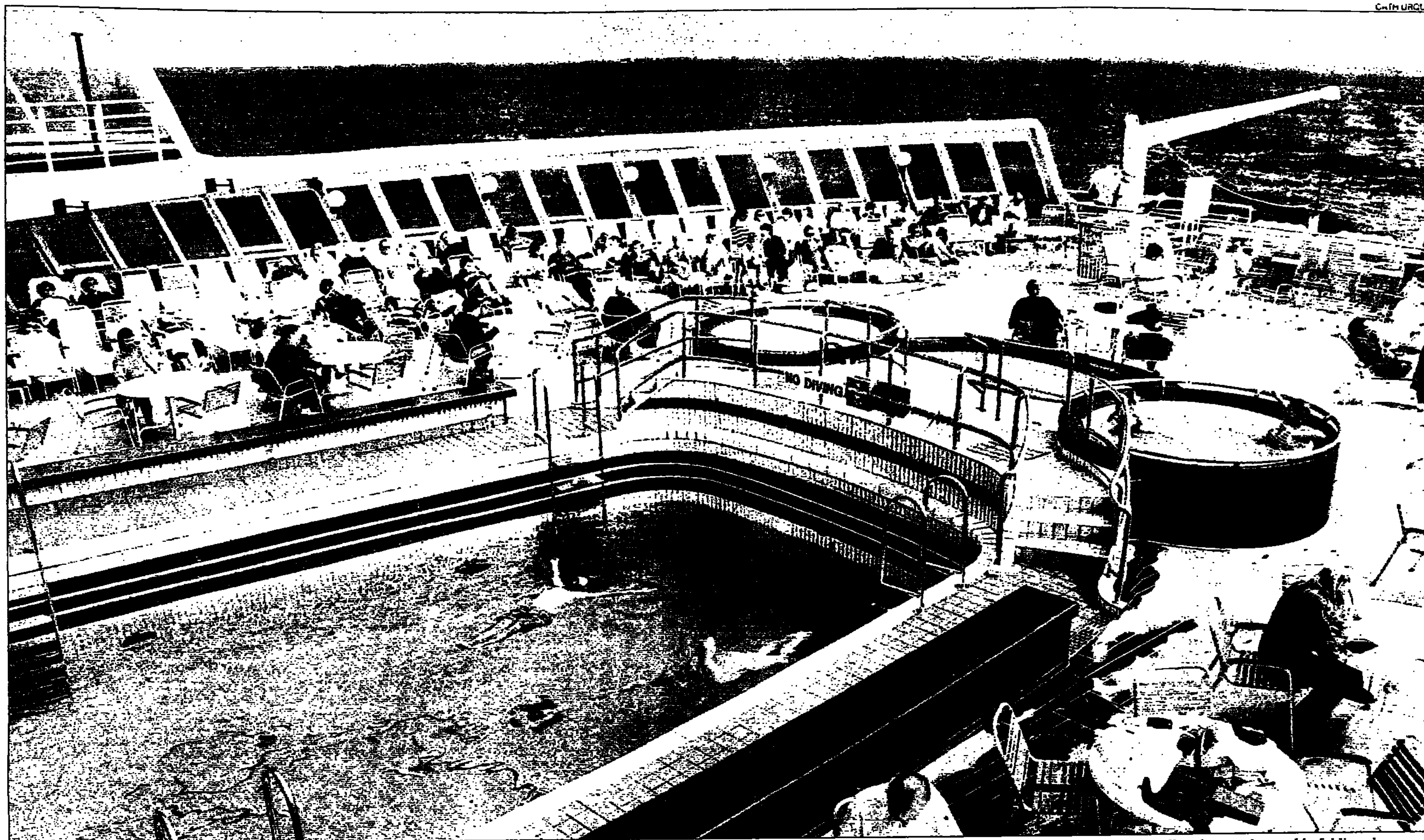
All at sea with an old queen

CATH URQUHART



Passengers on the QE2 agree that the enforced leisure of six days at sea is one of the ship's attractions. But there is plenty to do once you tire of the pool and the deckchairs — including the popular napkin-folding classes

Thirty years ago today, the Queen launched the QE2. **Cath Urquhart**, Times travel editor, joined last week's transatlantic crossing to see if the world's most famous liner is showing her age

With hindsight, it was a sign of things to come. As I fished for my passport and boarding card in the QE2's departure lounge at Southampton, I noticed a violently patterned brown and orange carpet covering one wall. Not for 25 years had such interior décor been considered tasteful. The kiosk nearby was dispensing tea and coffee but not headache tablets, so I hurried on board.

There are two advantages in sailing from Southampton to New York, rather than the other way around. The first is that on five of the six nights at sea, you have an extra hour in bed. The second is that you do not mind if your safety briefing, just before departure, overruns and you are not up on deck when the ship moves off. I would have been cross had I missed seeing the New York skyline — indeed, gliding silently past the Statue of Liberty at 6.30 on the last morning was one of the highlights of the trip — but on departure we were waving goodbye to Southampton docks and an oil refinery. So once up on deck, I was happy to turn my back on England and concentrate fully on my fellow passengers.

And how wonderful to discover that I was to spend the next six days with the cast of an Arthur Hailey novel. There was the Diana Ross lookalike sporting leopard print leggings and big hair; there were the Gentlemen Hosts, in white slacks and navy blazers, already twirling surprised-looking partners to the jazz band playing on deck; there were the handsome stewards; and everywhere I looked there were gold handbags, white linen trousers, Hermès scarves, the odd flat cap, a couple of — gasp — shell suits, even a kilt — which was distinctly daring, given the stiff breeze. And there was Arthur Hailey — not in person, but on a poster advertising his appearance as guest speaker on another crossing.

What the QE2 does, she does supremely well, whether it's crossing the Atlantic smoothly, catering for 1,500 permanently hungry guests, or, indeed, recreating the Seventies on the high seas. The publicity given to the ship's disastrous 1994 refit — when she set sail for New York with carpenters and plumbers still battling with exploding lavatories and other horrors — overlooked what was happening to the style of the ship.

For it seems that Cunard, the QE2's owner, had masterfully, albeit unintentionally, anticipated the Seventies revival of the mid-Nineties, in which flares, wedge heels, frosted eyeshadow and lava lamps made their camp comeback across Britain. I might not have found a lava lamp in my cabin, but if you have ever wondered what happened to disco glitter balls, mauve carpets with green swirly patterns, and baked Alaska once the Seventies ended, you need look no further. They're all here.

There are certainly nods towards the Nineties: the cool ambience and stylish lighting of the Crystal Bar recall fashionable London watering holes such as the Atlantic or Mezzo; at the other end of the scale, there are karaoke nights in the Golden Lion pub, to the disgust of the traditionalists. But despite this, the QE2 has, in a rather endearing fashion, taken a sniffy look at the more recent fashions — Eighties minimalism, the clean lines of Nineties design, nouvelle cuisine and the rest — and decided to give them a miss, and concentrate on what she knows best. Which is getting us across the Atlantic, whatever the weather.

"The QE2 is the last of the great liners, not a cruise ship," said First Officer Hamish Elliott, up on the bridge. "Other ships might have been built for holidaymakers, but the QE2 was built as a means of crossing the Atlantic." Today the QE2 offers short cruises and an annual three-month, round-the-world trip, but her core service is the transatlantic crossing. "We take quite a few passengers who are scared of flying, or who cannot fly for medical reasons, as well as holidaymakers," said Hamish. I was lucky to be on the bridge, for passengers are not allowed to visit it. However they need only watch early episodes of *Star Trek* to get a feel for the large-framed, distinctly Seventies radar screens and other equipment surrounding us. I peered at the waves, 90ft below us, and tried not to feel queasy. Hurricane Erica had been causing chaos around the Caribbean, and although we had missed it by 400 miles, it had created a 15ft swell. A queue had formed at the ship's hospital, where an unsympathetic nurse was administering anti-seasickness jabs and muttering that we hadn't seen anything yet; spare sick bags had thoughtfully been stuck behind railings and pictures all over the ship.

In a vain attempt to make me feel better, Hamish said that regular passengers often ask him if he remembers the Big Storm. "I try to remember which they are talking about, there have been so many," he grinned. In 1995, it was the Big Wave: Hurricane Louis sent a 100ft wave crashing over the ship and buckling one of the decks. In 1993 it was the Big Roll — the ship suddenly hit a huge swell and rolled 20 degrees each way, sending passengers and furniture flying.

Fortunately, the swell soon died away and for most of the crossing, the Atlantic was like a pond, and we enjoyed sunshine, strong breezes and little rain. The view, endless sea in every direction, might sound dull but it was strangely mesmerising: in one panorama the water could change from grey to black to blue to green to silver, sometimes broken by bright yellow seaweed. On the last day, we saw a school of dolphins, and someone reported seeing a whale. Staring at such a huge, empty expanse of water felt spooky: this is supposedly a busy shipping lane, but I saw no other ships.

Not that I spent long looking — there was far too much to do. One of the joys of the QE2 is that room service is free (although everything you must pay for, such as drinks, is now priced in dollars — sterling has become unusable on Britain's most famous liner). So I would start the day with breakfast in my cabin. In 1994 the cabins were updated and now the dark wooden panelling, portholes, and wonderful Art Deco-style bathroom mirrors (and yes, a mauve carpet in the bedroom) are complemented by decent showers and good plumbing.

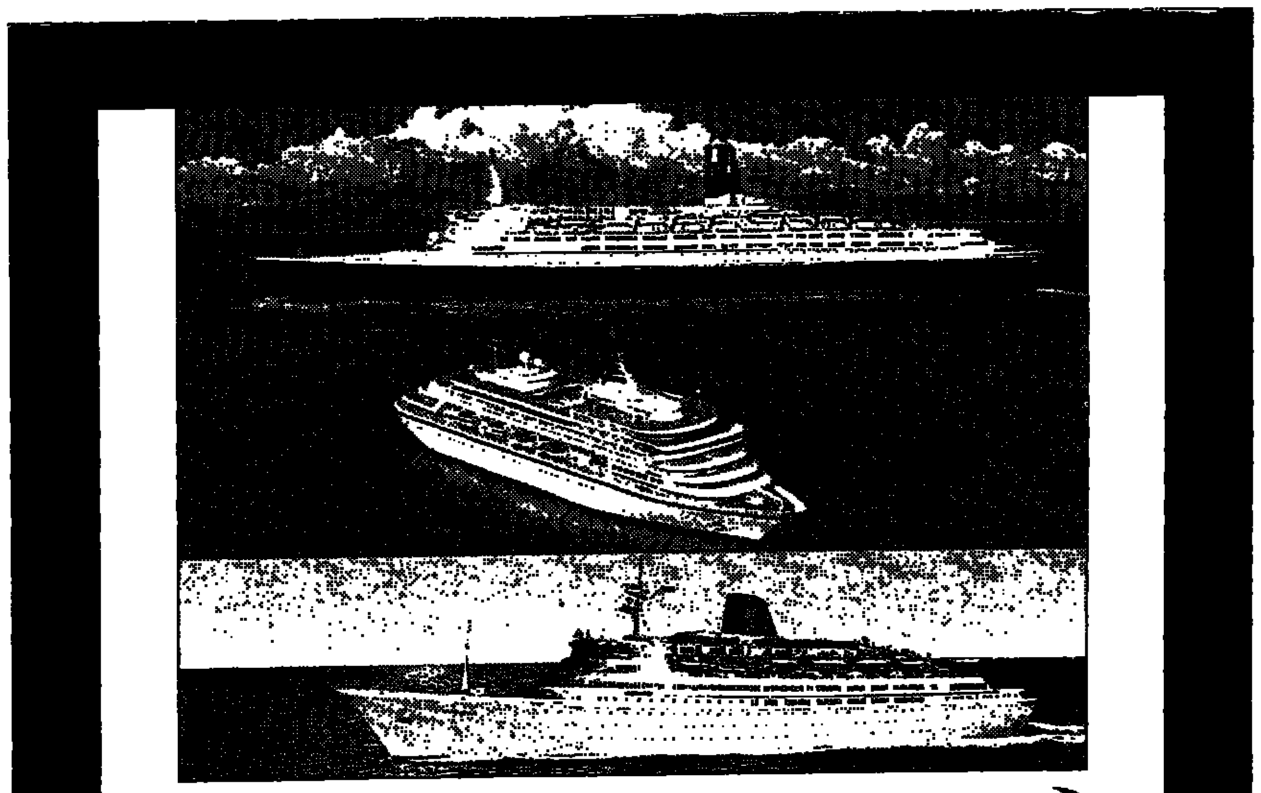
Then I was off to the health spa for a massage or session in the thalassotherapy pool. Other passengers agreed that the enforced leisure of six days at sea was one of the best reasons for taking the QE2. Janet Neal, 36, from Seattle, said: "We've been going to the spa and the gym, and shopping, and going to the movies" - the QE2 has its own cinema. Her only complaint was that she and her husband Bob, 45, would have liked to meet more people their own age, for most passengers were near or above retirement age.

Beyond the spa, there was a frenzy of activites on offer: dance classes, deck games, computer lessons, gym sessions, readings by guest authors Bill Bryson and Dick Francis. I managed to avoid the 15 couples renewing their wedding vows in

Continued on Page 20

QE2 FACT FILE

- Cath Urquhart travelled with Cunard (0800 000500) from Southampton to New York. Transatlantic crossings depart from Southampton on October 1, November 7 and December 15, with prices between £1,155 and £5,500 per person, based on two sharing a cabin, depending on the grade of cabin and departure date. Next year sailings start on April 15, with prices from £1,400 to £6,320 per person.
- The New Yorker package, including the six-night crossing, three nights at the New York Helmsley Hotel (room-only) and return flight, costs between £1,575 and £5,740 per person this year, and £1,690 and £6,630 per person next year. The price depends on the grade of cabin, is based on two sharing, and includes taxes, transfers, all meals on board (but not drinks), and domestic flights or rail travel to and from Southampton.
- Cruise style: Formal wear (black tie for men, cocktail dresses or similar for women) is expected on three evenings, and the other three are pretty smart too, although you can eat any meal in the Lido without dressing up.
- Reading: Before you go: *Ocean Liners Past and Present: Queen Elizabeth 2* by Gary Buchanan (Past and Present Publishing, £14.99). On board: anything with raised gold lettering on the cover.



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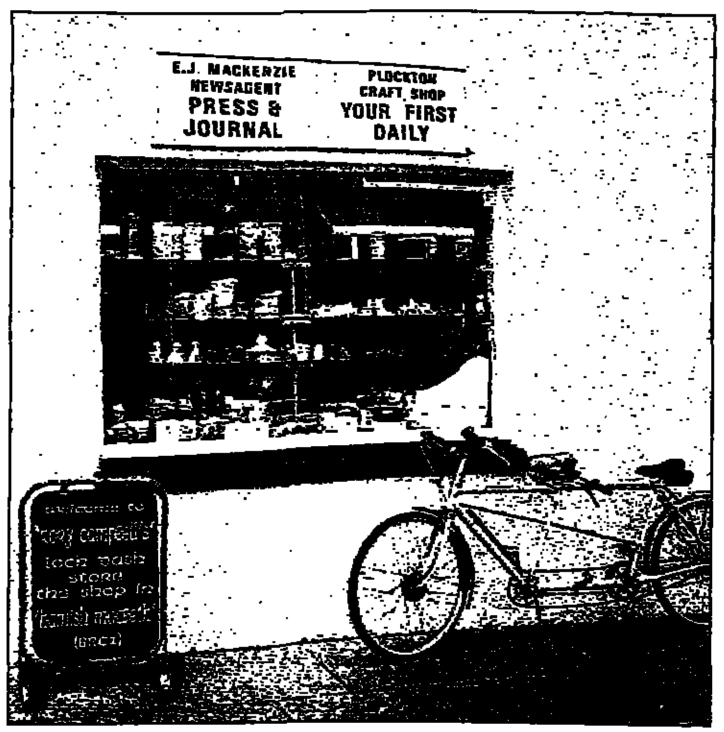
Scotland: The Highlands may be wet and windy, but they're full of charm – and charming people – says **Sally Baker**



Plockton is the village of Lochdubh in *Hamish Macbeth*

Looking for bright Skye – anorak at the ready

We peered desperately through the rain pounding on the windows of the minibus. There was nothing for it but to take our guide's word for the natural beauty that lay beyond the glass, get the driver to turn up the heating and the volume on his *Greatest Tartan Hits* cassette, and take inner warmth from the prospect of a hot bath, a wee dram, and dinner. On second thoughts, make that a double dram.

If you travel to the Highlands in autumn, you take your meteorological chances. We had five days of truly appalling weather — and yet the tantalisingly brief glimpses of copper-hued hillsides, lowering purple crags, glens glowing gold in the pale sun, and foaming white water crashing down the rocky slopes above the road were more than enough inducement for us to decide to take our chances again this October.

Fans of *Hamish Macbeth* will need no further encouragement to visit the west coast village of Plockton than the knowledge that it is the real-life Lochdubh of the television series. The palm trees that flourish along the lochside here were not so much swaying in the breeze as bending double in the gale; and yet the place exerted its charm, so much so that when Callum the boatman took us out on the loch and said we would have to sing to draw the seals, it seemed the most natural thing in the world to break into *The Skye Boat Song*. And it worked: up bobbed a trio of sleek grey heads around the boat.

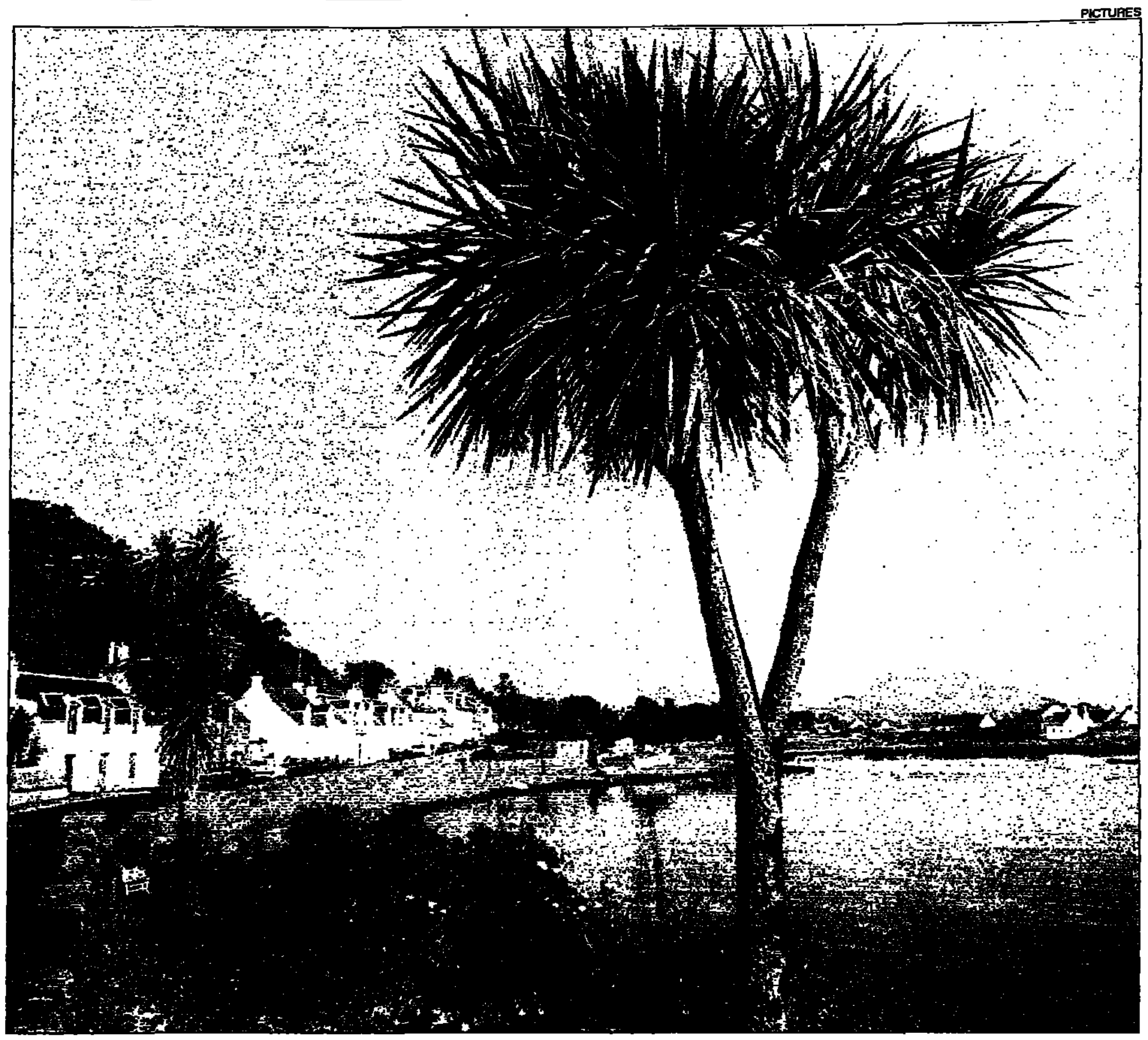
Skye itself is a short drive from Plockton, but visitors can no longer take the boat — now all must take the infamous new bridge and pay the infamous toll. But if the rain obscured the landscape, it also helped obscure the proliferation of tourist-trap shops and coach parks that mar the approach to this most romantic of isles. The rain stopped, the sun came out, and our first real sight of Skye was of the thatched "black houses" of the hilltop museum at Kilmuir, and behind them the tall Celtic cross that marks Flora Macdonald's grave.

There is no escape from Flora and her Bonnie Prince on Skye; yet only the most churlish visitor can fail to thrill to the tale, however often heard. Indeed, at the stunningly-sited Flodigarry Hotel at Staffin I stayed in the cottage, now beautifully converted, which became home to Flora and her husband after the events of 1746, and where five of her seven children were born. Her free spirit was certainly present that night at the ceilidh in the bar, where we stripped the willow, were wildly gay Gordons, clapped, tapped, wheeled and spun like true tourists. But the locals were too busy doing it themselves, or perhaps just too nice, to laugh much.

It was time to rub shoulders with Skye's aristocracy. At the magnificent Dunvegan Castle, home of the chiefs of the clan MacLeod for 700 years, the present MacLeod of MacLeod welcomed us to his Guy Fawkes' bonfire, complete with Viking boat burning. Then it was south to stay with the Macdonalds of Macdonald at Kinloch Lodge, where Lady Macdonald pours a terrific gin and tonic and serves a superb dinner — but then, she is an award-winning cookery writer.

And finally, back to Inverness by the most splendid route of all — a gentle cruise the length of Loch Ness in a majestic converted 1930s barge, glass of wine in one hand, binoculars in the other, all ready for a little monster-spotting. The clouds lifted, the sun shone, a perfect rainbow arched over the loch, and — no, we didn't see Nessie. Next time, though.

PICTURES



Palm trees flourish along the lochside in Plockton but take a battering in the Scottish weather. In heavy winds, they are bent double

FACT FILE

- **Getting there:** Sally Baker travelled with the Scottish Tourist Board (0131-332 2433).
- **Where to stay:** The Tomich Hotel in Glen Affric, Strathglass, Inverness-Shire (01456 415399), a good base for hikers: from £20. The Haven Hotel, Plockton, Ross-Shire (01599 544223): from £36. Flodigarry Country House Hotel, Staffin, Isle of Skye (01470 552203): from £46. Kinloch Lodge Hotel, Sleat, Isle of Skye (01471 833214): from £50. All prices are per person for B&B.
- **What to do:** Whitewave Activities, No 19 Linicro, Kilmuir, Isle of Skye (01470 542414) organises canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, guided walks, archery and biking. Leisure Marine (01599 544306): seal-viewing boat trips run by Callum Mackenzie in Plockton. Skye Riding Centre at Borve, near Portree, Isle of Skye (01470 532233) organises pony trekking through the Trotternish Hills. The Skye Museum of Island Life, Kilmuir, (01470 552206).
- **Loch Ness cruise:** Robin Black, Loch Ness and Great Glen Cruise Company, Muirtown Top Lock, Caledonian Canal, Canal Road, Inverness IV3 6NF (01463 711913). A *three-night cruise in* October costs from £300.
- **Shopping:** There is no shortage of kilt-and-cashmere outlets, but for old-fashioned charm and delightful service try the family-run Campbell & Co at the Highland Tweed House in Beauly (01463 782239), on the A831 west of Inverness.
- **Further information:** The Scottish Tourist Board's Autumn Gold brochure (0345 511511) contains details of special discounts on travel and accommodation available in September, October and November.
- **Tips:** Take a good pair of walking boots, a long-sleeved sweater (it can get chilly, especially on boat trips) and binoculars (for bird spotting).

'The origins of the Baked Alaska Parade were unclear'

Continued from page 19

the Grand Lounge, but was irresistibly drawn to the napkin-folding class hosted by the ship's social director, Elaine Mackay.

"Your first attempt was so bad that we are going to have to do this one more time," she chastised our class of 40, mostly women, although a few men were gamely tussling with the pink linen napkins, too. I felt pretty pleased with what I thought was my rather neat *fleur de lys*, but Elaine had seen better. "If you want to make these for a Christmas party, I suggest you start now," she quipped.

I always tried to catch afternoon tea in the Queen's Room where white-gloved waiters hand round silver salvers of cucumber or salmon sandwiches, fresh scones, and pour a dozen types of tea; a harpist plays quietly in a corner, and the chairs are turned towards the picture windows for us to watch the waves. Saying no to seconds was hard, but I knew what was to come. Dinner.

At any meal, passengers may order as many helpings or courses as they wish, but after ploughing through the hors d'oeuvre, soup, fish, sorbet, meat and dessert courses at dinner, there were rarely calls for more. The food was good — a lobster thermidor was particularly memorable, the salads remained crisp even after six days at sea, and the puddings were wicked. But the logistics of serving hundreds of people at once sometimes resulted in long delays. However, I was pleased to find some menus inspired by the same era as those swirly carpets. It must be 20 years since I had french onion soup, coq au vin and crêpe Suzette in one sitting.

We were assigned to the Caronia, one of five formal dining rooms, which were recently reconfigured so everyone can dine at once, instead of in two sittings. This system does not always work well. Irene Pickworth, from Manchester, on her third QE2 trip, said: "My friend Jane and I asked to eat at a large table so we could get to know people. But we are the only ones who choose to eat at 7pm, so we are sitting alone on a huge table. We feel a bit isolated."

She will be pleased to discover that from next April, the QE2 will reintroduce two sittings. This is because heavy demand for the ship has led Cunard to bring recently mothballed lower-deck cabins back into service, so passenger numbers will rise from 1,500 to their earlier level of 1,750.

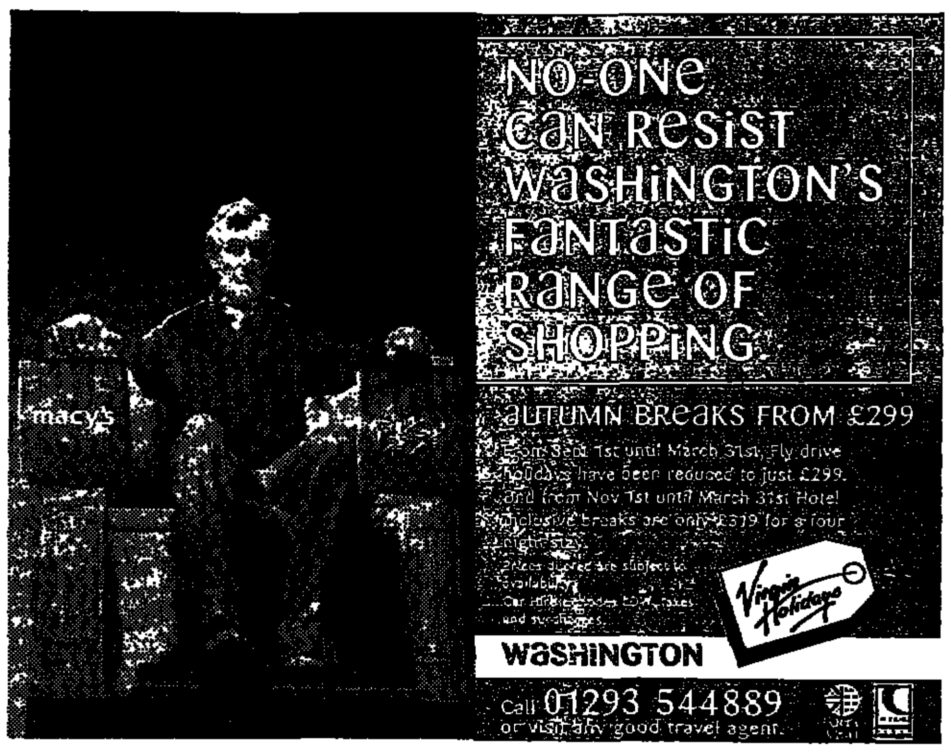
We managed to take a table in the Britannia Grill one evening, one of the three smaller restaurants for passengers in the more expensive cabins. The food was better, but the real pleasure was in the less hurried service.

By the last night of the voyage, I felt I had the measure of the ship. Chatting up Hamish on the bridge had paid dividends: he invited me to the officers' party, held in their private bar just below the bridge. This was the party of the week, in the best venue on the ship — at 8pm last Monday it offered a fabulous view of the sunset over Nantucket.

At the party we saw the faces that had become familiar during the journey — the guitarist from Wayne Fontana and the Mindbenders, the Sixties band that had performed on Saturday night; Bill Bryson, finally released from hours of book-signing; the Channel 5 film crew that spent all week popping up when you were feeling most sea-sick and least photogenic. The crossing had been just long enough to make friends and not so long that you got fed up with them.

But I had been unable to solve one mystery. One night we experienced a shipboard ritual whose origins were unclear: the Baked Alaska Parade. At 8.45pm, our waiters burst in from the kitchen, each bearing a Baked Alaska and a sparkler. The lights were dimmed, we cheered and clapped, the sparklers fizzled out. We ate the Baked Alaskas, none the wiser as to the significance of the event. But perhaps, in a world of psychedelic carpets, napkin-folding classes and big hair, it needed no explanation.

The Gentlemen Hosts, in their blazers and white slacks, twirl their partners around the deck to jazz music as the QE2 leaves Southampton



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هكذا من الأصل

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Alasdair Riley lets the morning train take the strain from Inverness through 'God's own country' to Kyle of Lochalsh

Window seat on a Scottish wonderland

A police chief at Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, recently identified a local form of Stendhal's Syndrome. This is normally associated with fainting fits suffered by art lovers overcome by beauty encountered in Florentine art galleries. The Scottish version of this problem is the car crashes caused by foreign drivers temporarily stunned by panoramas of lochs, mountains and glens.

The answer, for motorists driven to distraction by the splendour of the Scottish Highlands, is obvious. Let the train take the strain: preferably along ScotRail's 82-mile line from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh, a route which many consider Britain's bonniest.

Some go as far as to say that God did not rest on the seventh day; he merely relaxed by playing at trains. He took a stretch of land bordered by the chilly North Sea on Scotland's east coast and the warm currents of the Gulf Stream on the west. He placed a busy town — Inverness — on one side and a village on the other, complete with a pier and boats plying the waters to a necklace of islands nearby.

He magicked rolling fields, majestic mountains, deep glens, chattering rivers and sparkling lochs. He filled forests with deer, rivers with trout and salmon, and the skies with eagles and buzzards. Then He built a meandering single-track railway line between both coasts, hugging lakes and penetrating woodland, with bridges, level-crossings, signal boxes and the rest.

"It's God's own country here," John Fraser said, as the 10.45am Super Sprinter pulled out of Inverness. I had first spotted him and his wife in the lounge car of the Caledonian sleeper out of London the night before, consulting an Ordnance Survey map; then breakfasting on finnan haddock fillets with poached egg on top at the Station Hotel, Inverness. We were on nodding terms by the time we took our seats on the iron road to Kyle. The Frasers had moved long since to the Home Counties, but made an annual pilgrimage to the land of their forebears. It always includes a journey to Kyle of Lochalsh, their old staging post for past summer holidays on Skye.

We rumbled over the Ness viaduct, which replaced the bridge washed away by floods eight years ago. There was a castle or ruin every few miles as we sped along the southern shore of the Beauly Firth, then headed north towards Dingwall, where the track divides, one branch north to Wick and Thurso and ours to the west and the Hebrides.

"We haven't stopped off at this station for a few years," Mr Fraser said, "but there certainly used to be a plaque saying that 134,846 Servicemen had a cup of tea here during the First World War. And there are the remains of a castle where Macbeth's father is said to have been born."

A mile or two further on, Strathpeffer, a fashionable 19th-century spa, lay in the valley below, bypassed by the railway because local landowners refused to let it be built on their domain.

Once again, my unofficial guide came into his own. "This meant laying the track up a steep incline, and there are many of them on this line. More than once a coupling broke, and back went a couple of carriages, coming to a halt several miles away."

By now we were climbing through dense forest towards the 458ft summit of Raven Rock, countryside where the clans Mackenzie and Macdonald feuded. Hospitalities ended briefly when a marriage was arranged between the son of a Mackenzie chief and a Macdonald daughter. She turned out to have one eye, and was sent packing back to her family on a one-eyed horse, escorted by a one-eyed servant and a one-eyed dog. Hostilities resumed.

We picked up speed descending towards the Blackwater, a dark tree-covered stream, and along the southern shore of Loch Garve. To our right loomed Ben Wyvis, one of Scotland's 277 Munros, mountains over 3,000ft. The view from the summit stretches over seven counties, from the North Sea to the Atlantic. Mr Fraser uncased his binoculars, looking for deer or buzzard, and hoping for an eagle.

> 'The Queen was sent to bed with a plate of cold beef'

Achnasheen station, where an old hotel once had a door opening directly on to the platform, prompted another tale. Queen Victoria arrived there by coach, asking for fresh horses to continue her journey. The landlord refused because it was the sabbath, so she was sent to bed with a plate of cold beef.

Mountains closed in again as we rose to Luib summit, at 646ft the highest point of the line. It marks Drumalbin watershed, where rivers begin to flow west, not east.

We rattled through Glen Carron with Loch Scaven in the middle, dotted with two tiny wooded islands. Glencarron Lodge, clinging to the hillside, was once the home of Lady Cobbold, a much-travelled Victorian who is said to have been the first white woman to have entered Mecca. She converted to Islam and was buried here, standing upright and facing east.

A naked man sunbathing on the secluded shores of the loch merited a nip of whisky from the Fraser flask and a toot from the driver as we plunged into Achnashellach forest, hiding place for deer among spruce, willow, birch, oak and holly, before emerging at Achnashellach station, a popular staging post for Victorian businessmen who spent a portion of their fortunes on Highland sporting estates.

Peaks rearing above, with pinks and grey of gneiss topped with quartzite, are some of the oldest rocks in the world and challenging beacons for climbers.

We could smell the tangle of the isles, the seaweedy iodine and salty whiff of the sea, Loch Carron cutting into the mainland as the hills became gentler and countryside more welcoming.

Next stop, Attadale, where Vikings fought ferocious sporting duels, then, after the first view of the Cuillin mountains 30 miles away on Skye, Stromeferry. It was the Dingwall and Skye Railway Company's original railhead and pier for the Hebrides and lucrative fish business, completed in 1870.

Money ran out. It was not until 1897, after blasting out 30 rock cuttings and building as many bridges, that the line extended the final 15 miles. The great moment came on November 2, when the first passenger train, Skye Bogie No 70, steamed into Kyle of Lochalsh. The first boats from the railhead pier to Portree in Skye and Stornoway in Lewis left to the sound of cheers, hooting sirens and fireworks. The Grand Railway Ball was held in the evening, an occasion which competed with the gala dinner at Stromeferry 27 years earlier. It was reported then that the pipers, fuelled by whisky, claret and port, "could neither blow, stand up nor all play the same tune" by the end of the evening.

We were in a happy mood ourselves as we swept along the coastline bordered by rhododendron groves and ancient firs. The view across blue waters to the village of Plockton, setting for the television drama series *Hamish Macbeth*, lifted the heart. Sheltered by low green hills, with the pink peaks of Applecross behind, it is a haven for holidaymakers and the yachting crowd.

We rattled through crofting fields and Portnacloiche cutting, hewed 80ft into the hillside. It might have been cheaper to tunnel, but the ballast was needed as a foundation for the line.

Occasionally we could glimpse a necklace of islands with names such as Raasay, Scalpay, Longay and Pabay in the Inner Sound.

On time, two-and-a-half hours after leaving Inverness, we pulled into Kyle station, a single-storey building stretching to the pierhead in the shadow of the mountains of Skye.

I took the shuttle bus over the controversial new bridge for a brief visit to the village of Kyleakin. When I returned for the journey back to Inverness, my new friends, the Frasers, were sitting at their favourite spot in the gardens of Lochalsh Hotel, gazing contentedly over the sea to Skye.

They poured a local peaty malt. We raised our glasses and I, too, vowed to become a pilgrim on God's own railway.

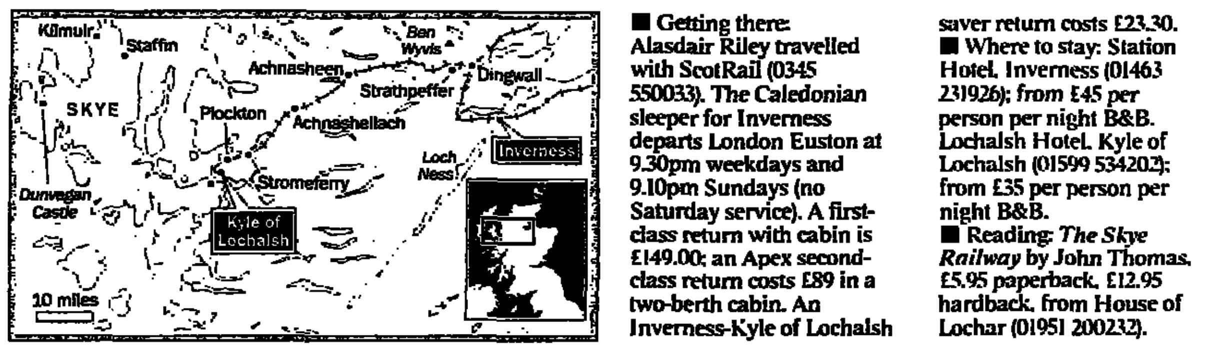
TONY STONE

When the railway line reached Kyle of Lochalsh, above, in 1897, celebrations were so lively that the pipers could neither blow, stand up, nor play the same tune by the end

DENNIS HARDLEY

The view from Ben Wyvis stretches over seven counties, from the North Sea to the Atlantic

MAKING CONNECTIONS



■ **Getting there: Alasdair Riley travelled with ScotRail (0345 550033). The Caledonian sleeper for Inverness departs London Euston at 9.30pm weekdays and 9.10pm Sundays (no Saturday service). A first-class return with cabin is £149.00; an Apex second-class return costs £89 in a two-berth cabin. An Inverness-Kyle of Lochalsh saver return costs £23.30.**

■ **Where to stay: Station Hotel, Inverness (01463 231926); from £45 per person per night B&B. Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle of Lochalsh (01599 534202); from £35 per person per night B&B.**

■ **Reading: *The Skye Railway* by John Thomas, £5.95 paperback, £12.95 hardback, from House of Lochar (01951 200232).**

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 28

CHEAPER
(c) One who bids a price: a bidder or purchaser. From the Old English *céapian*, *cheap* to barter, buy and sell. "He had required yt ye price of ye ground whereof he was a cheaper [*emptor*] shold once be shewed him, and ye seller had so done."

CAVENDISH
(c) Tobacco softened and pressed into solid cakes. "Cavendish is a species of tobacco reckoned by the Excise under the general denomination of Roll. I suppose the name is taken from the name of the maker in America. I know of no other reason for the name."

CHITTY
(c) Lean and pinched. Puny, childish, baby-like. Perhaps from the French *chicheface* with a thin or pinched face.

CORRUMP
(b) To bring to naught, destroy, mar, spoil, render useless. Also to decompose, cause to rot. To infect or taint with corruption. From the Old French *corompre*, *corrumpre*.

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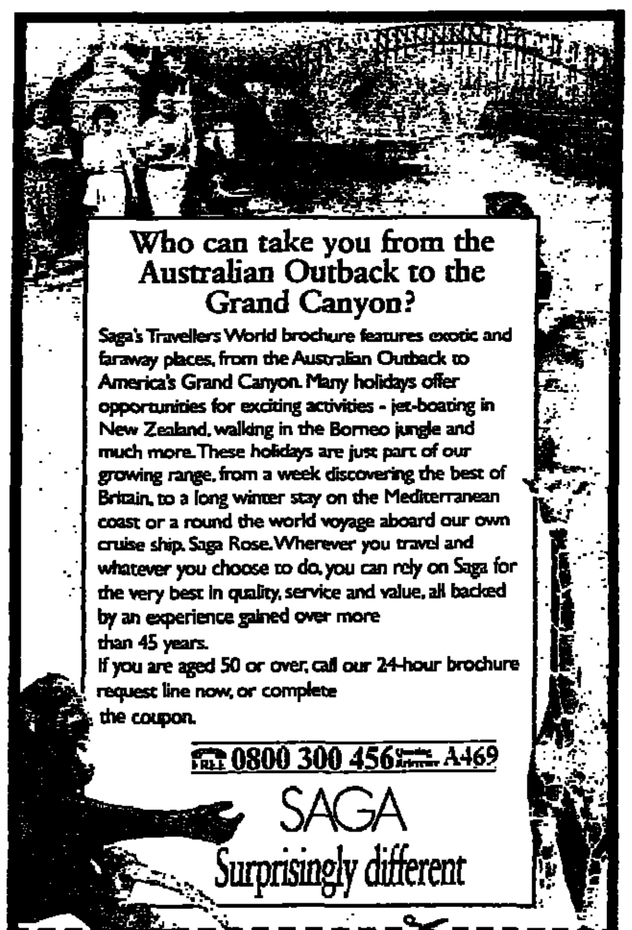

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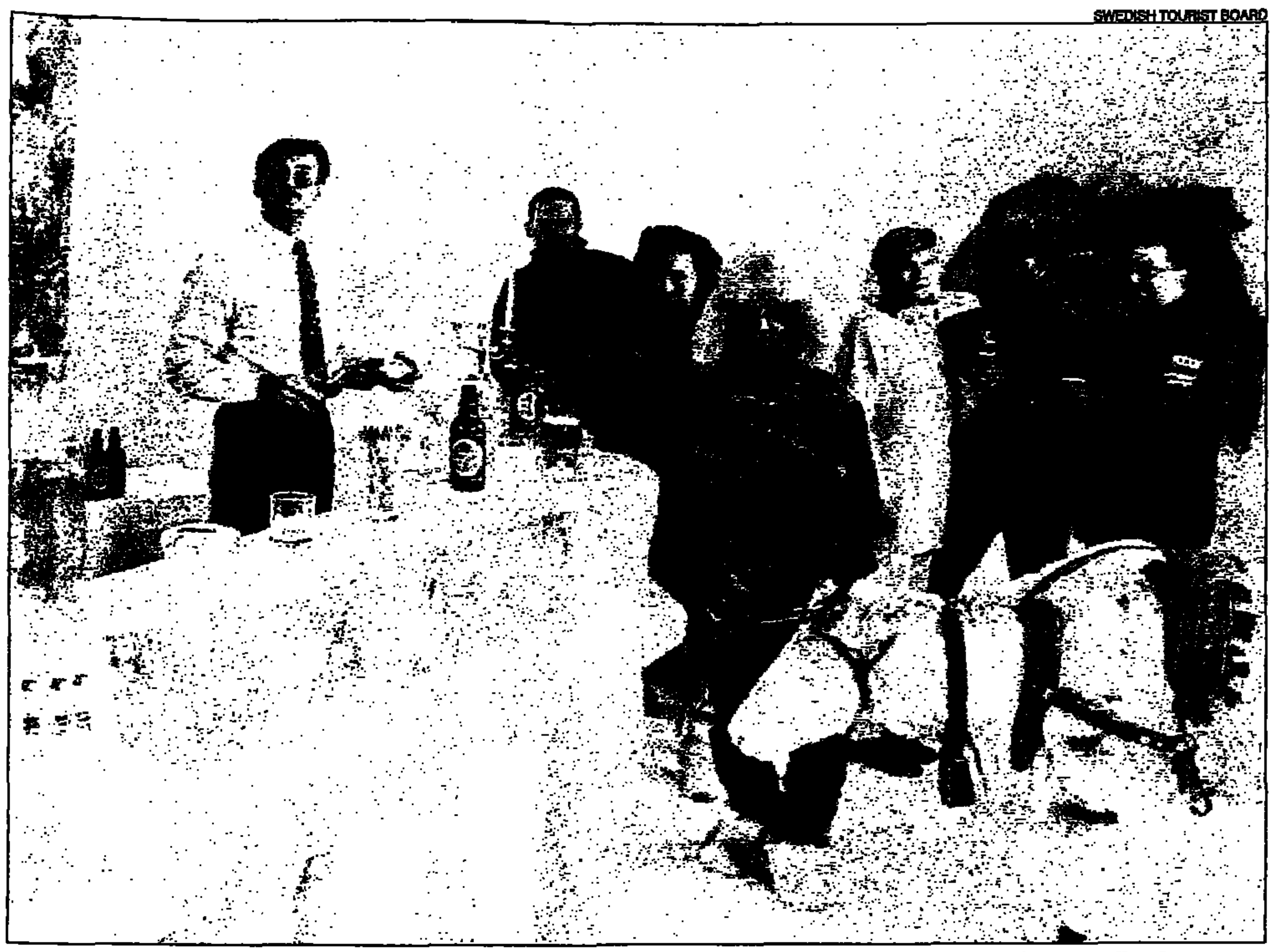
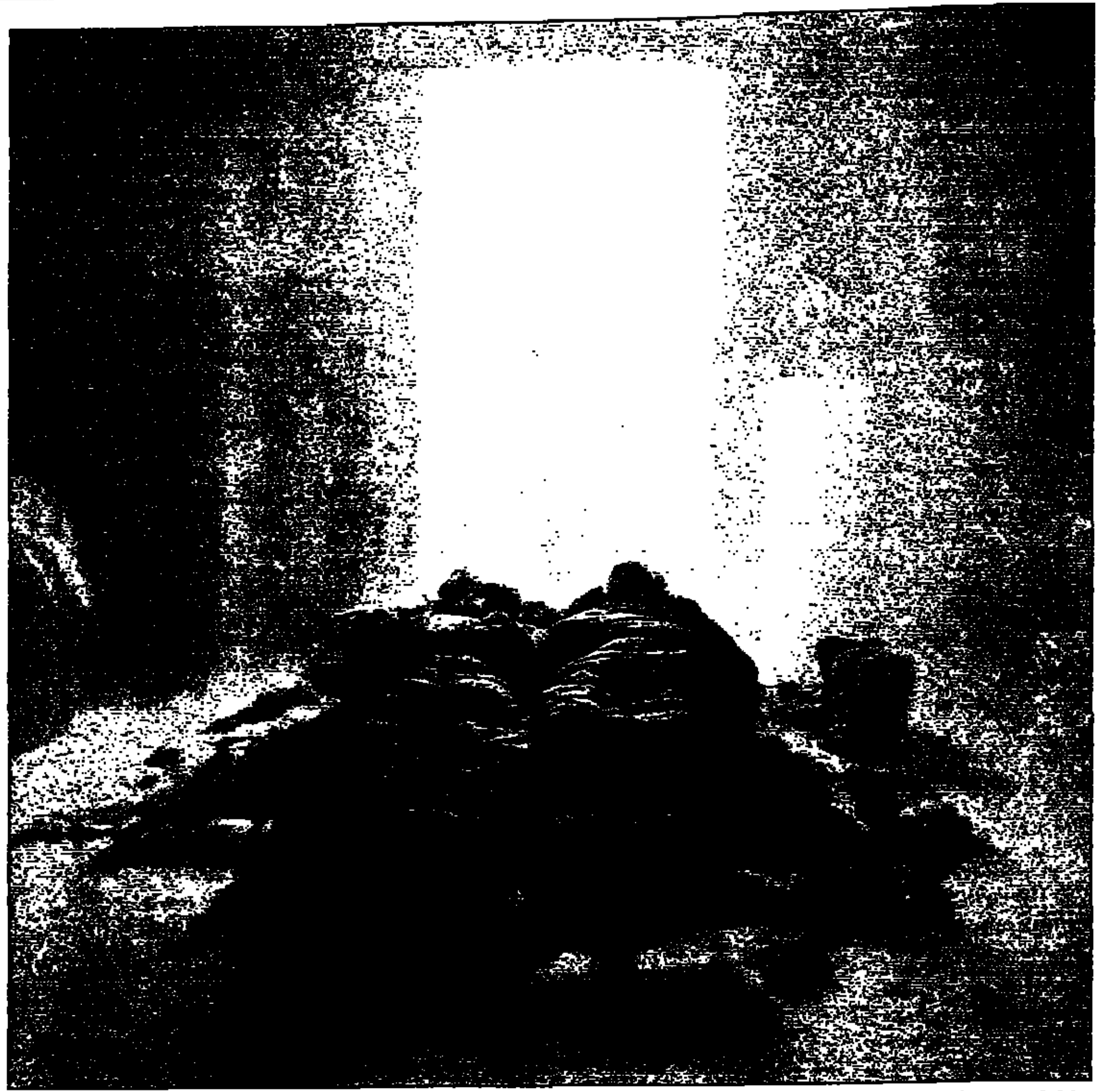


SWEDISH TOURIST BOARD

The hotel bar is made of ice, as are the tables, chairs, glasses, the sculptures and the chandelier. Come spring, though, it all melts away



The temperature in the bedrooms is minus 35C. Guests are advised to get into their sleeping bags quickly

A large Scotch please barman – and hold the ice

In Sweden, **Alan Brownjohn** finds a hotel where guests look forward to a frosty reception

Heading away from the sun in January, for a break in a remote Arctic village, may suggest contrariness. But the idea of journeying to northern winter wastes had long tempted me, and Jukkasjärvi in Swedish Lapland, north of the Arctic Circle, seemed to offer something uniquely fascinating in the shape — the igloo shape — of its extraordinary Ice Hotel.

Arriving in the transfer minibus from Kiruna airport, I did a double-take, realising that the hotel sign at the entrance is not cut glass, or crystal, but carved and lettered ice. Like the hotel itself, it is made each autumn and melts in May. Most visitors take the wimps' option by spending a night or two acclimatising in a chalet before braving a night in the Ice Hotel.

For a moment I feared rough, spartan conditions in the chalet accommodation. But each of the 30 wooden cabins offers tasteful decor and ample warmth in two two-bunk bedrooms, lounge, kitchenette and bathroom.

You can begin your stay by unpacking self-catering supplies bought at the mini-market, and promising yourself an Ice Hotel night when you feel ready for it. Stepping outside again requires the clothes you should have borrowed free from reception: thick boots, overalls, gloves and a dogskin hat.

On an exploratory walk you notice snow-scooters and skis parked outside cabin doors. Then you might see the headlights of a squad of snowmobiles approaching over a wide plain — Jukkasjärvi's frozen river, the Tornea. Nearby stand high poles joined by wires and ropes for rigorous climbing exercise in the stiff Arctic breezes.

With every winter daylight hour, and there are about five in January, this haunting landscape of northern desolation changes shape and colour. You see slow dawns of luminous mist, noons of driving snow, radiantly clear sunsets. At night the Northern Lights may be visible, glowing streaks and smears and blobs of green and purple in the sky; though you must stand where artificial lighting is blocked out to see them properly.

But to the Ice Hotel. In its main hall, the immense columns supporting the snow ceiling are made of transparent river ice, the water being clearer than lake water. And yes, those tables, chairs and sculptures are all ice, as is the bar, where drinks come in chunky ice glasses. "Not whisky on the rocks," quips the barman. "*In* the rocks."

I soon adjusted to the hotel's "indoor" temperature of minus 7C. The main hall, which includes the horseshoe bar, is frostily illuminated by carefully-placed lamps and candles; above hangs an astonishing ice chandelier, intricately wired by fibre-optics. The enchanted atmosphere in this Snow Queen's palace is the achievement of artists Arne Bergh and Ake Larsson who made pillars, furniture, bar, glasses — and the ice sculptures.

They labour here from November to March working on additional sculptures. The tables, glasses and other ornaments last through the season. In the spring their artefacts drip and fade away. But Arne maintains that the sculptures are not wasted: they are "drafts" for pieces later created permanently in wood or stone.

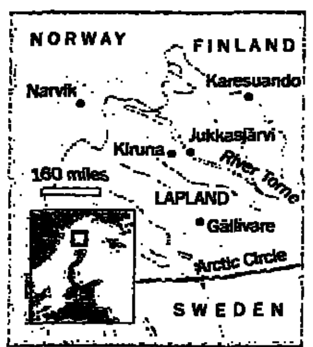
The Ice Hotel also has a cinema, a chapel where couples can be married, and around 20 bedrooms. If parties are booked in, you should claim your accommodation quickly. On my first evening I wasn't sure I had the courage. Weakly perhaps, I decided I would leave the availability of a room to chance and take the option that night of a conventional cabin, perhaps seeing *how I felt after a day at the Kiruna Snow Festival.*

This is a four-day event at the end of January. The day I went, the weather smiled on crowds attending dog-sledge and reindeer-sledge races on a hilly town centre circuit. The air vibrated to the music of a Samish (the term used to be "Lapp") band performing during snow sports displays. I asked people watching a rescue dog circling a large mound of snow what they hoped to find. I received puzzled looks.

Suddenly the dog located Mrs Britta-Marie Sundquist under the snow. She allowed herself to be buried as an avalanche "victim", warmly clothed but with no visible means of breathing, until a dog found her.

And when one dog found her, and its trainer uncovered her frozen face, she was buried again for half an hour so that five more dogs could show off their skills.

In Railway Park in Kiruna, 16 two-person teams from six countries had worked day and night through the festival to make competition sculptures, abstract or figurative, out of huge snow blocks.



Surely, if sculptors of all ages toiled out-of-doors in Arctic conditions, I could manage just one night in the hotel?

Back in Jukkasjärvi, I dined in the award-winning restaurant next to the Ice Hotel. Samish dishes are served here with considerable flourish: *mushroom and ptarmigan soup, Arctic char, reindeer* steaks with cloudberry sauce.

Conversation with English and Swedish friends turned on the sense of achievement gained from the experience of a night in an ice bedroom. Emboldened by a memorable meal, I went to reception and booked in for the next night, my last of three. Heidi, the guide, remarked cryptically: "I am on duty next morning." By now I had seen that silence, solitude and snow — and bracing, unpolluted Arctic air — could be more restful than noisy days among thousands on sunny beaches. Most of the older visitors seemed content, in the long evenings, to relax in their cabins or dine and drink in that excellent restaurant. But it did not seem right to leave without doing at least one of the more adventurous outdoor things enjoyed by younger, fitter visitors.

Next day a dog-sled team steered by an experienced trainer hurtled me mile on mile over frozen lakes and through pine forests, a scary and exhilarating ride (with more time you can learn to handle the team yourself).

We rested on what, in the summer, would be an island in a fast-flowing river, where coffee was brewed and a snack provided in a log hut. We discussed the Arctic, modern civilisation, life itself. Then we returned in the 3pm twilight, against a biting wind. After this I did feel sufficiently acclimatised to sleep my night in the Ice Hotel.

We — that night's 16 guests — sensed a degree of bonding on the brink of a feat of endurance, as we received our instructions: wear only long johns and a sweater, don't wash your face or apply cream before retiring, climb into your sleeping-bag (withstanding temperatures of minus 35C) very fast, pull your clothes in with you to warm them for the morning. My room was large, its walls decorated with snow-reliefs of local scenes.

"Did you sleep well?" people asked next morning in the sauna. "Yes — though I hadn't *thought* so," I said. My night had been silent, thick snow walls offering complete sound insulation. But I dreamt that I was *awake* in these compelling surroundings, not dead to the world, on reindeer skins covering a board laid on a mattress set on blocks of ice. In fact, I had rested well and warmly in this eerie, candlelit stateroom in the world's biggest igloo. At 7.30am Heidi had appeared with beakers of warm berry juice. And it had taken her some while to rouse me fully from a sound repose.

ICE HOTEL FACT FILE

■ Alan Brownjohn travelled to Sweden with SAS (0171-734 4020). Flights to Koruna go via Stockholm: return fares start at £307 for tickets bought seven days in advance. A taxi from Koruna airport costs £16.

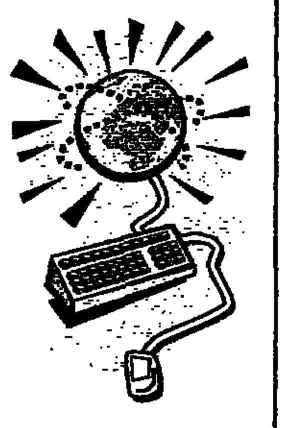
■ The Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi (00 46 980 66800) is open from December 1 until May, weather permitting. There are 100 beds this season, from Kr600 (£50) per person for a dormitory to Kr800 (£66) for a private room, including breakfast and a sauna.
A two-bedroom cabin with kitchen is Kr800 for up to four people. Booking essential.

■ Several operators offer package deals to the Ice Hotel. Scantours (0171-839 2927) has a Lapland Activity Break for £755 per person including two nights in a wooden chalet and one night on ice, flights and transfers.
Norvista Holidays (0171-409 7334) has three-night packages from £798 to Swedish Lapland. A night in the Ice Hotel is £68 extra.

■ For more information call the Swedish Travel & Tourism Council on 0171-724 5868 (24-hour brochure line 01476 578811).

■ The *Rough Guide to Sweden* (£10.99) has a short section on Jukkasjärvi.

Sweden on



WEBWORLD

THE "WHERE DO I START?" SITE:
Introduction to the Land of the Midnight Sun, with tips on transport and lodging: **www.gosweden.org/northern**
Pictures of the Ice Hotel, interior and exterior are on: **www.ecst.csuchico.edu**
Good tours available on: **www.travel.com.hk/linders/tours/lapland**

KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL SITE:
Lots of sites offer cheap deals to Sweden. The **www.gosweden** site has good links to some of these. A superb site for general advice, travel stories and suggestions on how to find the best value deals out there — especially if you are looking for a Eurobreak — is: **www.globetrotters.co.uk**

TRAVELLERS' TALES SITE:
Access this, tap in a request form and receive a flood of stories from this neck of the woods: *Lapland News* is an Internet "e-zine" devoted to what's going on. Top tips and recommendations: **www.lapland.se/news/eindex**

THE MUGGING-UP SITE: Temperature charts, a Swedish/English dictionary and a course in Swedish cursing: **www.chesco.com/cslice/swedish**

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Fred Mawer asks whether tax-free shopping is a traveller's right, or a profitable mark-up for airlines and ferries

No duty – but no bargain either

Millions of leaflets distributed in airports, planes and ferries this summer have drawn attention to the consequences of abolishing duty-free and tax-free shopping on June 30, 1999 within the European Union.

Why such a fuss about being able to buy cut-price spirits and cigarettes? Intra-EU duty-free is worth £1 billion in the UK alone. Airports, airlines and ferry companies use the massive profits on duty-free sales that come from inflated mark-ups to subsidise other parts of their business. Abolition should have happened in January 1993, but duty-free operators were granted a period of grace to find other sources of revenue to replace their profitable duty-free sales. However, fronted by a vociferous lobby group called the Duty-Free Confederation, they *are campaigning doggedly* for a further stay of execution.

> 'People buying duty-free are often being ripped off'

The arguments against abolition:

The Duty-Free Confederation argues that, since the EU is years away from a true single market and has 15 separate fiscal jurisdictions, the proposed eradication of intra-EU duty-free is "a triumph of dogma over common sense". Backed by surveys funded by the travel industry, it also claims abolition would have a serious impact on the industry, the effects of which would be largely borne by the public. This is because airports, airlines and ferry companies use profits from duty-free and tax-free sales to invest in facilities and keep ticket prices down.

BAA, which operates seven UK airports including Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, *calculates that abolition would* jeopardise about 30 per cent of its £400 million annual income from duty-free and tax-free sales, and around 1,900 jobs. It estimates it would need to raise aircraft landing charges by the equivalent of 75p per person to recoup some of the losses. Smaller regional airports, where EU traffic is as high as 90 per cent, will be *even harder hit.*

Airlines, as Roger Burnell, managing director of Britannia Airways, put it, "will suffer a double whammy through the increase in landing charge and the loss of in-flight duty-free sales" (about £4.50 per person per flight on Britannia). Studies sponsored by the pro duty-free lobby published last week *calculate that the* cost of a package holiday in the EU will rise by £10 to £14. Apparently these higher prices will mean many holidaymakers will choose non-EU destinations instead: Greece, for example, may re*ceive 600,000 fewer* holidaymakers a year.

Abolition would hit the ferry industry the hardest. It is claimed that on services between Britain and the Continent, the result would be the loss of nearly 9,000 jobs, ticket prices rising *by 10 per cent and the possible* closure of 11 routes.

William Gibbons, director of the Passenger Shipping Association (which represents the ferry companies), says: "Routes will close if duty-free goes." Though operators may start selling duty-paid goods, he explains their profit margins are minimal compared with duty-free sales. In this respect, Hoverspeed is stealing a march on other ferry companies by opening a duty-paid wine shop in its Boulogne terminal *next* month. Interestingly, presuming abolition happens, not even Customs yet knows whether beer and wine sold on cross-Channel ferries will be subject to low French or high UK duty rates.

The arguments for abolition:

The European Commission says intra-EU duty-free flies in *the face of the existence of the* single market. It argues that shops on ferries and in airports, as well as sales on planes, have an unfair competitive advantage over high street retailers (and Eurostar, which is not allowed to sell duty-free and tax-free goods). Moreover, their tax-free status effectively amounts to a state aid and discriminates against those who do not travel. The Commission claims that using duty-free sales is a bizarre way to *fund* transport and shows how high the operators' profit margins are. It also rubbishes many of the calamitous consequences of abolition cited by the duty-free lobby. The large number of predicted job losses are judged to be "probably enormously exaggerated". Tax-paid shopping will continue to flourish post-abolition in airports and on ferries, not least because they have a captive market.

Geoffrey Martin, senior spokesman for the Commission in the UK, admits that abolition will probably lead to a few ferry routes disappearing, but does not accept that the price of plane tickets will necessarily rise. He also accuses operators of using their shops' duty-free and tax-free advantages to inflate their profits. Eurotunnel was initially outspoken against the extension of duty-free in 1993, since it was thought to benefit Le Shuttle's competitors. However, following the success of duty-free sales in Le Shuttle's terminals (about £3 million a week this summer), the company has softened its position.

Yet Bruce McKendrick, Eurotunnel's retail director, argues that "customers buying duty-free are often being ripped off without even realising it. They see a significant discount from the high street price and think it must be good value. They don't realise that operators are often effectively pocketing much of the uncollected duty for themselves".

From the customer's point of view, duty-free is often something of a misnomer — duty-reduced might be a more accurate term. The charts show how great an extra mark-up the leading duty-free operators are making over a high street supermarket — as much as £6.50 on a bottle of whisky and nearly £11 on 200 cigarettes.

A *Holiday Which?* report published this month compares cross-Channel operators' duty-free prices with those in French hypermarkets: while cigarettes and perfume were cheaper if bought duty-free, spirits cost roughly the same and wine and beer were cheaper in France.

In France, it is cheaper to buy wine and beer from a hypermarket than a duty-free shop — and how many of us know the excise rates on the alcohol we are buying?

CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL: HOW THE BIG OPERATORS MAKE THEIR MONEY

1 litre Grant's whisky	Tesco	BAA	Britannia	Stena	Eurotunnel
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Excise duty and VAT	£9.76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cost of whisky and mark-up	£4.73	£7.55	£8.94	£11.25	£7.70
Extra mark-up over Tesco	N/A	£2.82	£4.21	£6.52	£2.97

200 Benson & Hedges	Tesco	BAA	Britannia	Stena	Eurotunnel
Price	£29.19	£13.00	£13.99	£15.99	£12.60
Excise duty and VAT	£24.09	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cost of cigarettes and mark-up	£5.10	£13.00	£13.99	£15.99	£12.60
Extra mark-up over Tesco	N/A	£7.90	£8.89	£10.89	£7.50

ALLOWANCES

- Duty-free means items such as alcohol and cigarettes are being sold without excise duty and tax (ie VAT). Tax-free, which applies to other *goods, means no* VAT *is* levied. Duty-paid and tax-paid means that prices include the duties and taxes of the country where you're buying the items.
- Duty-free allowances within and outside the EU are: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars; two litres of wine; one litre of spirits or two litres of fortified wine; 60ml *perfume; 250ml* eau de toilette. Tax-free allowances for all other goods (confusingly including beer): £75 within the EU, £145 outside. Within the EU *you can buy your full* allowance each time you cross a border.
- Duty and tax-paid "guidance levels" within the EU, for personal use: 800 cigarettes and 200 cigars; 90 litres of wine; 10 litres of spirits; 20 litres of fortified wine; 110 litres of beer; no limit on perfume or eau de toilette.
- Abolition will not affect allowances for travel outside the EU or duty- and tax-paid purchases.

Tourists face dilemma after Egypt bomb

THE Foreign Office this week warned visitors to Cairo to be extra vigilant after Thursday's bomb attack in which nine tourists died — but it has stopped short of telling visitors to avoid the Egyptian capital. This means that nervous holidaymakers should check with their tour company before cancelling a forthcoming holiday, as they may not get all their money back if they do so.

*However, several major British oper*ators have pulled clients out, or offered them the option of altering or cancelling their holidays without penalty. Thomson, the biggest British operator to Egypt, moved just under 100 holidaymakers from Cairo to Luxor on Thursday evening, and is not taking any others to the capital at present. "We acted immediately, because the terrorists said they were targeting tourists," said a spokeswoman.

Saga, the over-50s holiday company, has also pulled out of the city centre but is offering its customers the option of *staying near the pyramids* at Giza, or rebooking or cancelling their trip.

But Bales Tours, one of the oldest-established operators to Egypt, is continuing to take clients into Cairo, and would not necessarily offer full refunds to anyone who cancelled. Claims would be considered on an individual basis, said a spokesman.

Security in Cairo is now being drastically stepped up, as happened following the attack on Greek tourists in Cairo in April 1996, which killed 18. Tourist numbers fell in the early Nineties, when militants attacked holidaymakers on Nile cruise boats on several occasions, killing some tourists, including a British woman.

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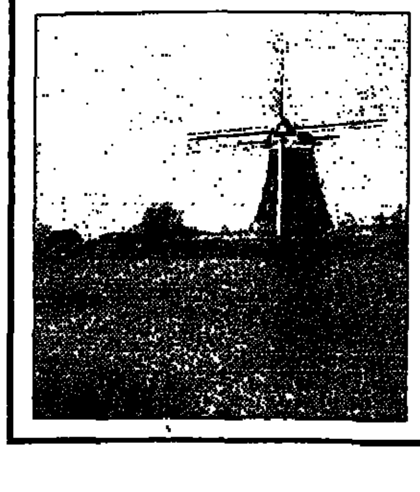

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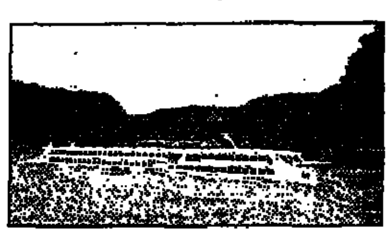

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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Snowshoe shuffles

IF YOU dislike the whole business of skiing you might prefer to try snowshoeing, which is easier to learn, cheaper and it also enables you to get off the beaten piste and into the wilds. It is rather like walking on tennis rackets, say fans.

Headwater Holidays (01606 48699) has special Snowshoeing Weeks starting on January 14 and February 28. These are based at Autrun, home of the French Nordic Championship, on the Vercors plateau above Grenoble. The weeks cost £397-£488 if you drive yourself, £579-£658 by air, including half-board hotel accommodation, equipment hire, tuition and guiding.

Water board

MONOPOLY addicts can play a real-life version of the board game next Saturday by joining the Great British Monopoly Challenge organised by the Royal British Legion in aid of the participants' choice of charities.

Teams of up to four leave King's Cross and Liverpool Street railway stations at 9am and head for Regent Street (Hamley's), Piccadilly (The Ritz) and the Water Works (the London Aquarium), acquiring bounty or forfeits as they go. The event ends with judging and fireworks in Battersea Park. Entry fees are £50 per team plus £125 worth of badges for resale in aid of the charities. More information from the Royal British Legion (0171-973 7350).

■ FROM November 11, Eastern and Oriental Express (0171-805 5100) has a 22-hour rail service between Bangkok and Chiang Mai. The train will stop at Phitsanulok to see the ruined royal palace and temples of the 13th-century city of Sukhotai. The journey costs £610 for full board, tours and one-way internal flight; a package including the rail journey, three nights' B&B in Chiang Mai and flight back to Bangkok costs £937. The Bangkok to Singapore rail journey, which takes three days, costs £900.

Tree houses

MAKE *the most of autumn in log* cabins belonging to the Forestry Commission (0131-314 6100) in Scotland, Cornwall, and Yorkshire. Three-night breaks cost £125 for up to six people per cabin in September and October, £89 in November. Canoeing, mountain biking, pony trekking, hill walking and, off Cornwall, shark fishing are available. Much of the forest surrounding the cabins is evergreen conifers, but there is plenty of mixed woodland nearby, particularly at Deerpark on the edge of Bodmin Moor, while the ancient Dalavich oakwoods are only a short walk from the cabins at Lochaweside in the Highlands.

Snail tales

NOT many museums invite their visitors to eat their exhibits, but Ferme la Caracole encourages plenty of sampling during guided tours. It breeds a quarter of a million escargots each year and runs an Eco-Museum of snails — its largest live specimen is an African snail weighing 300 grams.

The farm in Saint Florent-sur-Auzonnet in Languedoc-Roussillon is open at weekends, and visitors pay Fr20 for the tour, Fr25 if they taste as well. (Telephone from the UK: 0033 466 25 65 70.)

If you are more of a goat enthusiast, head for the Cascade Goat Reserve at Roquefère, just north of Carcassonne, which has 13 live breeds and an auberge specialising in goat cuisine. Open at weekends, the entrance fee is Fr15. (Telephone from the UK: 0033 468 26 36 36.)

Cargo cruising

WOULD-BE Conrads and Somerset Maughams will welcome the brochure on passenger cargo voyages from Strand Voyages (0171-836 6363), even though most trips now take place on container ships rather than on traditional banana boats and tramp steamers.

Sailing from Felixstowe via Antwerp and Le Havre, Canada Maritime's two 34,000-tonne fully ice-strengthened container ships cross the Atlantic on ten-day voyages to Montreal. Both ships carry five passengers at a cost of £985 — with no single supplements. A 104-day round-the-world voyage costs £8,065 (£8,500 for single passengers) on German container vessels. These also leave from Felixstowe and call at 20 ports including New York, Tahiti, Hong Kong, Suez and Salerno on their voyage to Auckland and back. The ships carry ten passengers, who eat with the German officers. A few banana boats do still exist: Fyffes runs 35-day round trips to Suriname and Guyana for £1,980, and 28 days to Belize and Honduras for £1,850, both from Portsmouth.

There are snags — or benefits: no bingo, ballroom dancing or other entertainment on board. You need to be flexible about dates which can be changed to suit the cargo. And could you face the same nine faces at breakfast for 104 days? If so, the brochure makes good dreaming.

OXFORD SCIENTIFIC FILMS

Rainbow-faced gelada baboon, one of the rare mammals that lives in the highlands of Ethiopia

Animal magic

***WEIRD* and wonderful endemic species have evolved in Ethiopia's "highland islands" because of the mountains' isolation, altitude and climate. Among the larger mammals are the huge mountain nyala antelope, the rainbow-faced gelada baboon, the red simian jackal which could well be a wolf or a fox, and the giant mole-rat. For birdwatchers, there are black-winged lovebirds, Abyssinian catbirds and perhaps a glimpse of an ankober serin, which looks as "boring as a sparrow", but since its discovery *in 1976 has been seen only* rarely.**

Naturetrek (01962 733051) has organised its first ten-day natural history tour to the Bale Mountains and Shoa Highlands which leaves on November 28. The cost of the tour is £990 which includes flights and full board in lodges.

WEEKEND COURSES AND ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 26-28

Tales from the riverbank: Fish for tench, carp, rudd and perch on private waters *in Norfolk. Details* and bookings from Angling Travel (01263 761602). Prices, all inclusive, from £189.

National Trust working holidays: Weekend conservation breaks repairing and restoring the summer ravages at National Trust properties all over Britain. Weekend rates from £20, including accommodation and meals. Full details available from National Trust Working Holidays Brochureline (0891 517751 — premium rates).

Calderdale Walking Festival: The opening weekend of a two-week festival, with walks, lectures and courses on outdoor skills. Accommodation available. Full details and festival programme from Halifax Tourist Information Centre (01422 368725); Hebden Bridge TIC (01422 843831); Todmordon TIC (01706 818181).

How to write for television; Enjoy your sewing machine; Life and figure drawing: Three courses this weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Winter course brochure available. Weekend rates: £159.20 residential, £69.20 tuition only.

A fungus foray: At the Leonard Wills Field Centre, Williton, Taunton, Somerset (01984 640320). A weekend in the woods looking for fungi. From £127 full board, or £102 non-residential.

Masterworks of art and music: A weekend of illustrated lectures, exploring masterpieces by some of the greatest artists and composers. No technical knowledge required. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Prices, full board and accommodation from £114. Non-residential from £90.

Cotswold walking weekends: From the Burford House Hotel, Burford, Oxon (01993 823151). Weekend walking along the River Windrush, to Blenheim Palace and Kelmscott Manor, the home of William Morris. Prices from £180 per couple, for two nights.

Rag rug making; Silversmithing and jewellery; Gourmet cooking weekend; Tandem skydiving: *Acorn Activities of Hereford* (01432 830083), from £40 for rugmaking, to £210 for skydiving.

Winchester Literary Festival: Celebrating Jane Austen and John Keats with readings and talks from modern writers. Full details and programme from Winchester Tourist Information Centre (01962 840500). Hotel and B&B accommodation available.

OCTOBER 3-5

Flower arranging; Gardening skills; China mending; Basket making: Practical skill courses from Acorn Activities, Herefordshire (01432 830083). Prices from £80 per weekend, according to the course.

Cylinders to CDs, a history of recorded sound; Gold thread embroidery: Two courses this weekend at the Alston Hall Residential College, Preston, Lancashire (01772 784661). Prices from £75 to £80 for two nights, inclusive.

Suffolk's Medieval Houses; Calligraphy: This weekend at the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (01206 298283). Prices from £72 to £102.

Walking in the autumn landscape: Guided walks on the North Downs of Surrey from the Juniper Hall Field Studies Centre, Dorking (01306 883849). Prices from £79 to £102, according to accommodation.

Memoir writing; The work of George Frederick Handel; A patchwork workshop: At Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price £112 inclusive.

Writing poetry; Mediaeval art: At the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course, £70, inclusive.

Illustrating autumn fruits and fungi; Myths, dreams and impossibilities: At the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall, Cambridge (01954 210636). Price £117 per course inclusive.

Golfing enthusiasts' weekend in Scotland: at Balbirnie House, Markinch, Fife (01592 610066). Two nights, including one round on Balbirnie Park golf course, with half-board accommodation, from £99.50 per person per night.

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Volunteers repair dry-stone walls for the National Trust

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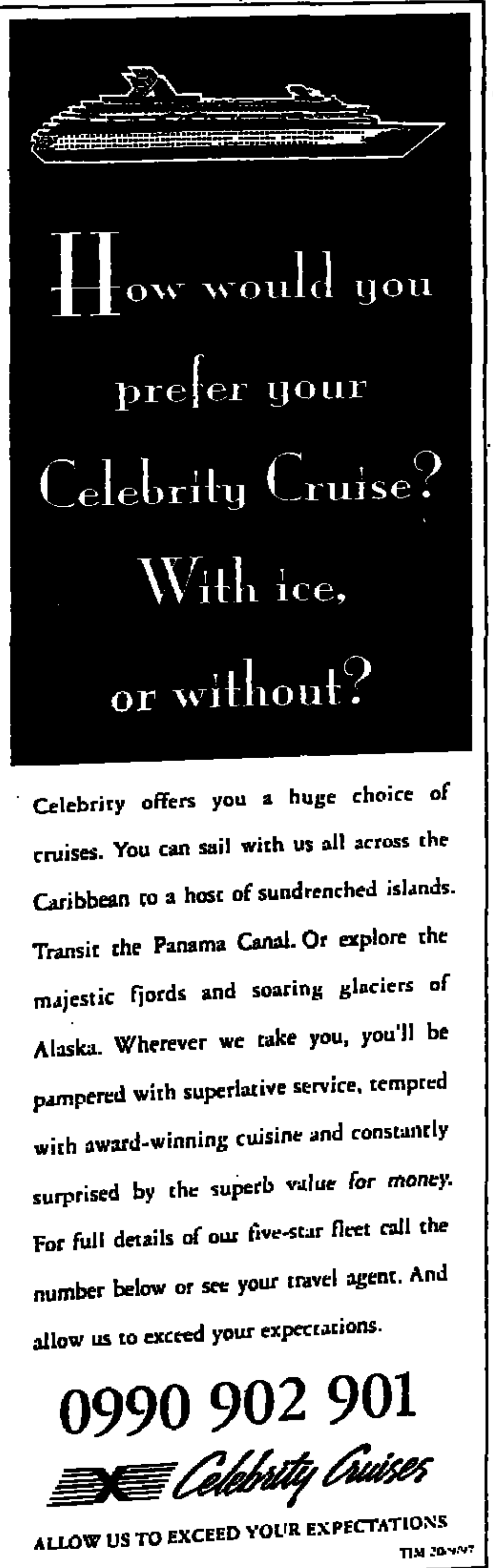

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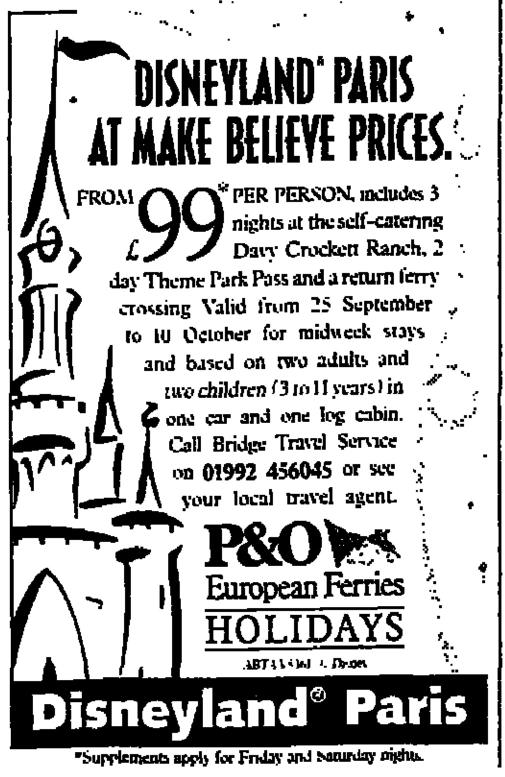

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GENTLEMEN

ADVENTUROUS *skier* (30) seeks companion *for* warmth on slopes. Interests: cross country running, weight training & American line dancing. Looking for the right girl to share my home. Box No 7215 ☎ ✍

ARE You successful, ambitious, strong-willed and passionate? Are you physically very attractive(23-36) and mentally challenging? Do you enjoy the best things in life and know how to get them? If so, this tall, fit, attractive and very successful male (late 20's) would love to hear from you! Based Scotland but often in London. Photo please to Box No 7532 ☎ ✍

GENTLEMEN

ARE you happy and positive? I'm 30, successful 5'10" attractive (apparently!) ns, London based, who enjoys skiing, flying, scuba diving, horse riding, keep fit, eating out and travelling WLTM a lively, positive, slim, intelligent ns soulmate, mid to late 20's. Recent photo guarantees reply. Box No 7493 ☎ ✍

ARE you single with/without children. Looking for real happiness, true affection and everlasting love. Well so am I! Wanted female between the age of 26-37, anywhere within the universe, who is looking for a soul mate and a true friend. ALA. Please reply with photo to Box No 7460 ☎ ✍

CHAP, Christian, 60ish, slim, fit, fun, hair, teeth, good communicator, Francophile; seeks sincere "up and go" modern woman to early 40s. Reply to Box 7515 ☎ ✍

COUNTRY loving bloke living Sussex, 6ft good looking GSOH works city. Successful. Enjoys walks cycling sailing, well travelled varied interests still looking for that very special slim lady 35-45 to bring new dimension to life. You are out there somewhere. Photo appreciated. Box No 7414 ☎ ✍

DARK haired, tall, dare I say good looking consultant physician/ author in private practice, seeks very attractive, very slim, tallish lady in 30's or 40's with sense of humour, intelligence & love of life. I am 51 divorced GSOH hence this ad. One grown up daughter. Live in lovely location North Surrey near London, love travel, theatre, restaurants (especially London), tennis and cosy evenings at home. Please reply enclosing photograph. Box No 7533 ☎ ✍

KENT man good looking yung 47 interests music, sport, books, cinema, dining out, travel seeks slim attractive n/s lady 42-49 for long relationship. Photo preferred. Please reply to Box No 7411 ☎ ✍

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LANCS/N-W. Single, prof, n/s, one-off, male, 45, seeks down-to-earth, younger lady with spark to share wide, if simple, interests and for mutual life enrichment. Box 7453 ☎ ✍

LEEDS man seeks slim 30's Leeds woman. SA programme hasn't worked. Box 7506 ☎ ✍

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NEW dawn! Where are you? That attractive, stylish, intelligent woman around 40, here I am that worldly n/s, London man to complement your life. I'd love to hear from you so please send photograph and telephone number to Box 7486 ✍

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SENSITIVE Upper Class girl 20s/30s, n/s, who would not normally reply sought by eligible, tall Oxbridge widower. Wife sadly died aged 34, daughter 15. Old enough to be your father but full of go. Listed house, Kent village. Distance unimportant. Total love, loyalty. Everybody would approve. Nobody need know how we met Reply Box No 7516 ☎ ✍

SHARE Romantic w/end at my country home near London. Handsome, kind man (39) seeks attractive sexy English Rose or *foreign lady*, (25-45). Photo please. Box No 7361 ☎ ✍

STAFFORDSHIRE/ Cheshire 58yrs top of two professions. Wit, charm, certainly; hair - not much. World traveller, books theatre and all types of music. Looking for lady 45-50 with humour, style and a love of life. photos appreciated and returned. Box No 7391 ☎ ✍

STRONG, sincere, 6'1, late 40s, educated, divorced, n/s, white, male, optimist seeks lively, tallish, slimish, late 30s early 40s, n/s female soulmate. Like music, the arts, adventure days out, romantic nights in? Me too. Photo guarantees reply. N London/M25 Bx 7470 ☎ ✍

UNPRETENTIOUS London man of verve, gifted shoulder lender with velvet toe-curling voice and irresistible smile, retired from work but not life, wants dewy-eyed, slim yet patently curvy woman (40 plus) ready again for secret winks, laughs, torrid kisses and Christmas. Reply Box No 7423 ☎ ✍

VIBRANT g/looking successful lawyer late 40's sporty sensitive GSOH n/s WLTM cute very pretty slim financially secure lady 30's for fun lasting relationship, travel, good things of life. Photo please to Box No 7244 ☎ ✍

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BEAUTIFUL lady sought by N/S divorced man in central London to share enjoyable things in life - theatre, dining, travel (mainly USA) and who knows? If you are over 45, please send photograph to Box No 7093 ☎ ✍

COMMITTED Christian widower, mid 60's, West Country, N/S, domesticated, sensitive, considerate. Enjoys travel (France & Switzerland), photography & many other things. WLTM lady 40-60. Box No 6833 ☎ ✍

DEBONAIRE, witty, young looking athletic 61 year old business consultant, 5'9, considerate and solvent, seeks slim attractive imaginative lady, early 40ish for genuine relationship with security. London based. Box 7189 ☎ ✍

ENERGETIC, optimistic, professional WLTM exciting beautiful, intelligent, warm lady, late 30's-40's SW London based. Photo appreciated. Please reply to Box No 7239 ☎ ✍

GAY men London/Home Counties seeking long term relationships - ring Significant Others - the gay intro bureau for professionals. 0171 494 0009

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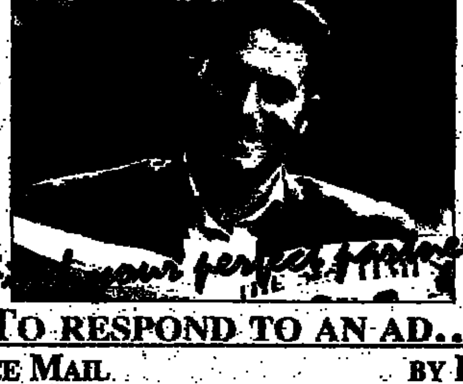

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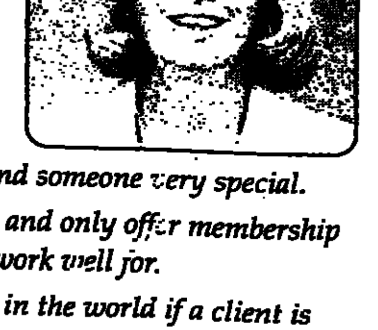
HELLO, I'M LINDA



I've worked for The Executive Club for 12 years. I've made thousands of friends, nearly all of whom are now in committed relationships.

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Yours,
Linda ×

P.S. Regards to all our ex members.

EC EC

هكذا: من الاعلى

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE most successful mass chess movement in history was that of the former Soviet Union, which commenced with state initiatives during the 1920s. The Russians quickly learnt that a combination of high-profile events and appeal to young players was the most effective way forwards.

For many decades, *The Sunday Times* and *The Times* have supported the British Schools Championship for teams. Now Rotary International, Save the Children and Kasparov Computers have joined forces to create a 24,000 player individual championship for British schoolchildren. Organisers claim it was the largest chess tournament ever held, either in the UK or the world at large. Players as young as six competed, while the overall winner was Richard Cleveland of Wales.

White: Sarah Hegarty;
Black: Lee Gold
Played at the Mind Sports Olympiad. Festival Hall. August 1997
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 Nf3 d5
3 Nc3 d4 4 Ne2 Nc6
5 b3

The start of a poor plan of development. It would have been better to proceed with g3, Bg2, 0-0, d3 and then Nh4 or Ne1 and f4.

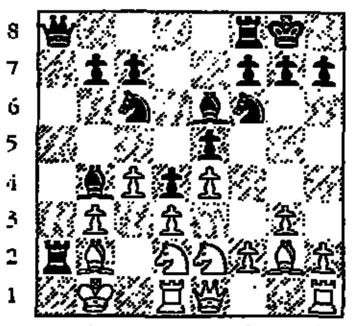
5 ... Nf6 6 d3 Be7
7 Bb2 e5 8 Qd2 0-0
9 0-0-0 Be6 10 Qe1 a5

The beginning of the end. Black prepares to open files against the white king.

11 g3 a4 12 c4 Bb4
13 Nd2 axb3 14 axb3 Ra2

Black's pieces flood in. White is pitifully tied up.

15 Kb1 Qa8 16 Bg2



16 ... Rxb2+

The winning combination. Unfortunately, Black does not follow it up properly.

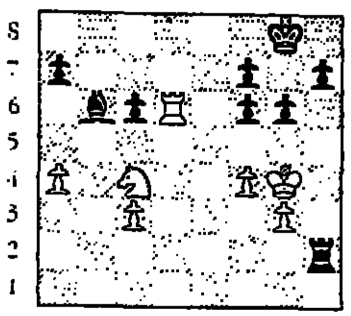
17 Kxb2 Bc3+

This is over-impatient. White could now have fought back with 18 Nxc3 dxc3+ 19 Kxc3.

18 Kc1 Qa1+ 19 Kc2 Qb2 checkmate

Notes based on those from the bulletin.

White: Nicholas Timms;
Black: Richard Cleveland
UK Chess Challenge, August 1997



This was the conclusion to the game which enabled Richard Cleveland to become the overall winner of the UK Chess Challenge.

White had the opportunity to exchange off the black bishop at b6 earlier, but passed this by. After Black's next move he had cause to regret this decision.

1 ... f5+

Now 2 Kf3 allows 2 ... Rf2 mate but the alternative is no better.

2 Kg5 Kg7!

And there is no defence to 3 ... h6 checkmate.

The driving force behind the challenge was Michael Basman, International Master. Starting as a promising junior player, he went on to make his mark in tournaments such as the Hastings Premier, in which he once came close to defeating Mikhail Botvinnik, the Soviet World Champion. Basman raised support for the challenge and organised the logistics of bringing together thousands of schoolchildren from around the country. He deserves a large vote of thanks from the chess community.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

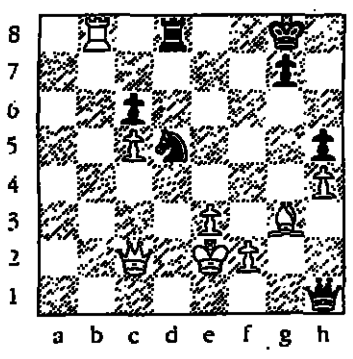
Black to play. This position is from the game Ortega - Zelcic, Toscana 1997.

Can you spot Black's neat geometrical winning move?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Bxg7 (1 ... Nxd2 2 f6 and mate follows)
Last week's winner:

Last week's winner: P Soper, *Tilton-on-the-Hill, Leicester.*



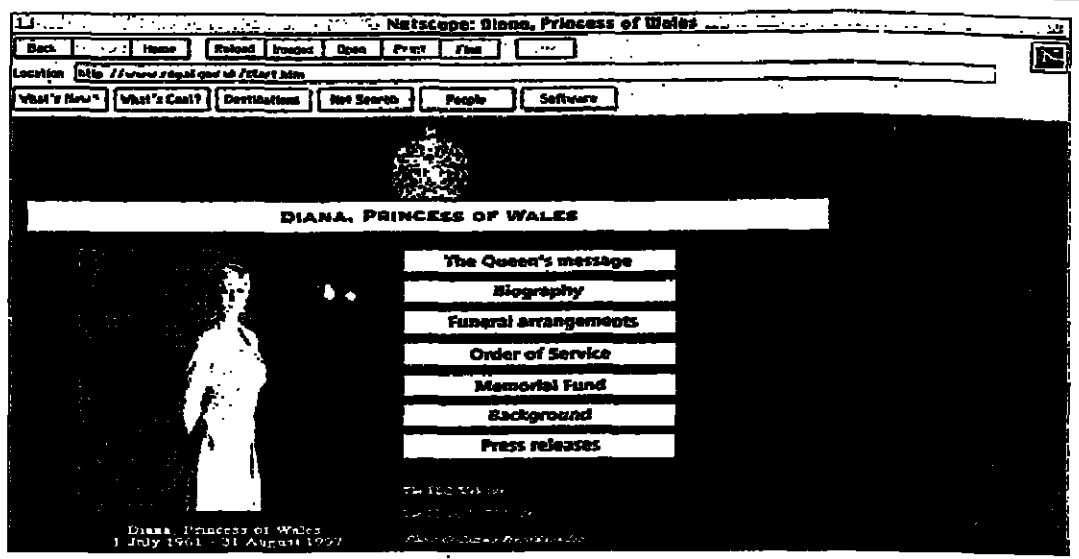
COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

THE games industry experienced a strange time a fortnight ago. Normally it swings loudly into London for the three-day annual trade show held at Olympia, where a heady mix of anorak-speak and alcohol are used to win over the European press and, more importantly, retailers placing orders for *Christmas* software stock. This year started in sombre mood and found itself mixed up with crowds making their pilgrimage to nearby Kensington Palace to mourn the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Many developers and publishers cancelled launches which would have clashed with the funeral. A few, however, showed complete disregard for the nation's feelings and went ahead with binges that night. Among them was the launch party for Mindscape and Team 17's **Worms 2** which proceeded as planned at the Shout 'N' Surf CyberCafè in New Oxford Street, complete with pink worm parading outside.

The death of the Princess has affected other developers. The light-hearted quiz game **You Don't Know Jack**, reviewed below, will reach shops a little later than planned. The master-copy is being reworked to remove questions about the Princess now deemed to be unacceptable. The Internet has also played its part in bringing together a world still stunned by the appalling tragedy in Paris. Citizens around the world have been able to add their names via the Internet to memorial books.



Since her death about 1,000 websites have been set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales

At the monarchy's official Website condolence messages can be left at http://www.royal.gov.uk/vbk/index.htm. This remains the most obvious place to leave a sympathy message, although there is as yet no explanation about what will happen to the thousands of entries logged there.

But there are many other sites. One, which can be viewed at http://www.thamesvalley.com/princesshtm, remained open for a week. In due course the messages will be bound in a leather book and then forwarded to the Spencer family for inclusion in the official records. The condolence site at http://members.aol.com/douglash52/ recorded almost half a million hits. Entries can no longer be added but a selection of those transmitted will be viewable indefinitely.

Another site has been set up in perpetuity to the memory of the Princess, with a condolence register which will eventually be presented to Prince William and Prince Harry. Found at http://www.dianaqueenofhearts.com/, as well as passing on sympathy messages to the boys the site is devoted to helping one of Diana's favourite charities, Children with Cancer. Here, "any child who requests [one] will receive a free Web page. In addition, anyone planning a bone-marrow drive may also request a free website".

The Princess Diana Memorial Ring lists a further 350 or more links to similar new sites. Found at http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/1009/diring/htm, it has so far had 50,000 visitors.

There are more than 1,000 websites devoted to the Princess and they are growing. The patchwork of flowers outside the palaces may be being moved but in cyberspace the memorial tapestry is still being woven on an unimaginable scale.

LATEST SOFTWARE

BERKELEY SYSTEMS'S hit quiz ***You Don't Know Jack*** has finally made it to these shores. The light-hearted quiz was released in north America about two years ago but many questions were too obscure for international audiences. Now an a Anglicised version is almost here.

The original formula was ingeniously atmospheric, taking the form of a radio quiz for up to four people. In the run-up to starting there was a flurry of noisy activity from the studio crew before they fell quiet, the screen faded to black and you were "on air".

The question-master was a fast-talking American DJ, and the questions and possible answers flew in and out of shot accompanied by neat jingles.

The reworked British version, for Mac and Windows, is missing some of the more appealing ingredients of the original. Out goes the silver-tongued American host in favour of a less thrilling plummy English chap, and even the pre-show studio crew activity has been re-recorded with a couple of *Sharon-and-Kylie types.*

Still, You Don't Know Jack remains a fine way to end an evening of over-indulgence at the pub. Gratuitous bad language means this is not a game for children. You can shortly try the "lite" edition, with 50 questions for £2.99, redeemable against the full-price, 600-question version.

■ **Verdict: 7 out of 10. Snappy irreverent quiz for 1 to 4 players. £29.99**

Quiz: Not just for eggheads

WITH some games you salivate in anticipation of the fun about to be unleashed and then, after several hours have elapsed, reluctantly realise that the experience is fast *becoming an anticlimax.*

A recent example is **X-Com Apocalypse**. Despite being released by Microprose, a pedigree developer, the title lacks a satisfactory tutorial to ease players into what should have instantly become all-consuming.

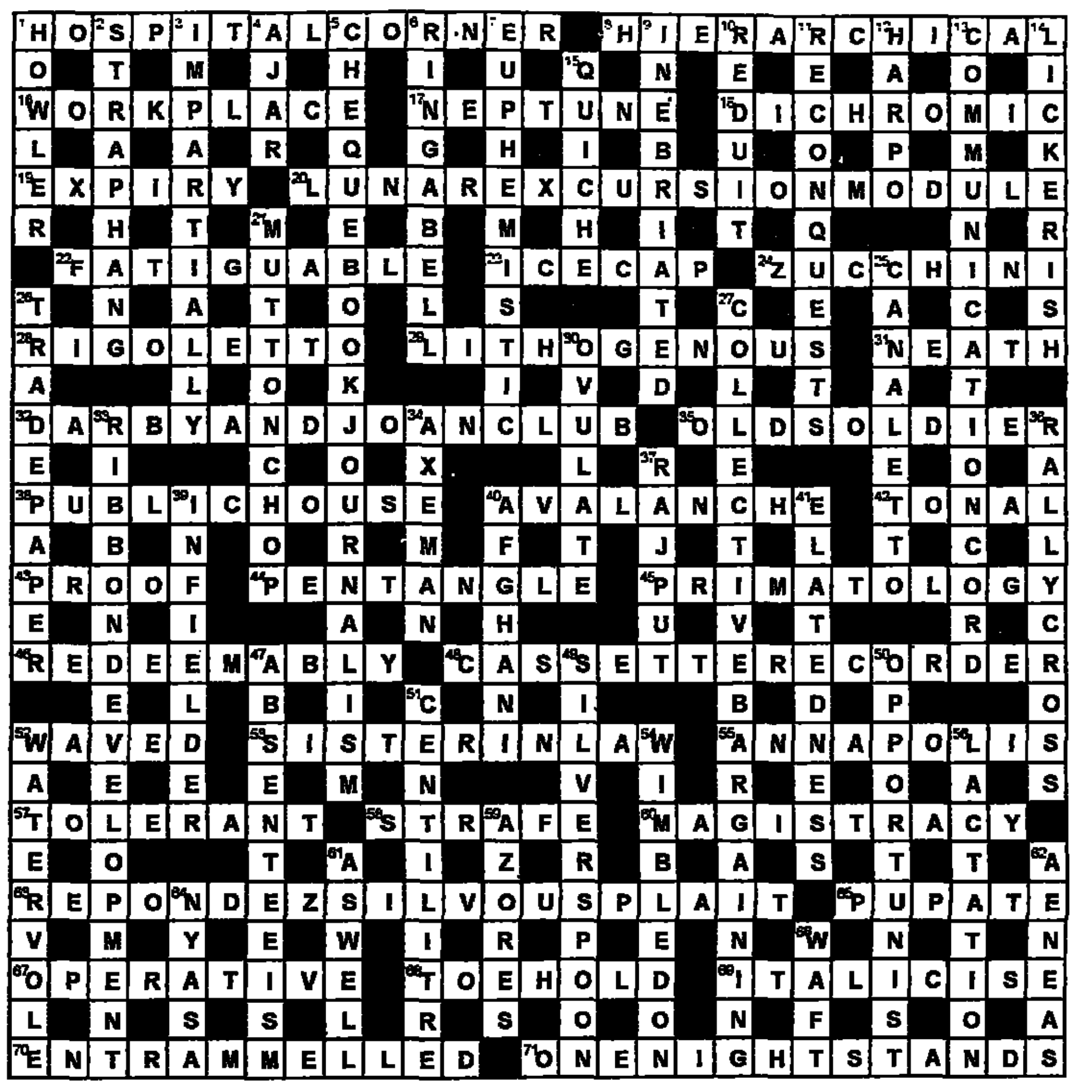
This is a futuristic game of cops and robbers, putting you in charge of the good guys to pluck off unwelcome aliens dropping in all over the city as well as righting other wrongs.

When your agents successfully track down enemy arrivals or other villainous characters, the screen comes alive with crackling bursts of gunfire.

X-Com Apocalypse is rewarding only if you can be bothered to scale its slippery learning curve. Most will find it too steep to bother, which is a shame, since the graphics look great, with a cityscape not unlike Sim City that is teeming with detail. Of course, one of the beauties of **Sim City** is that even without any experience you can jump right in and get going — not so this god-game.

■ **Verdict: 5 out of 10. Impenetrable futuristic strategy game.**

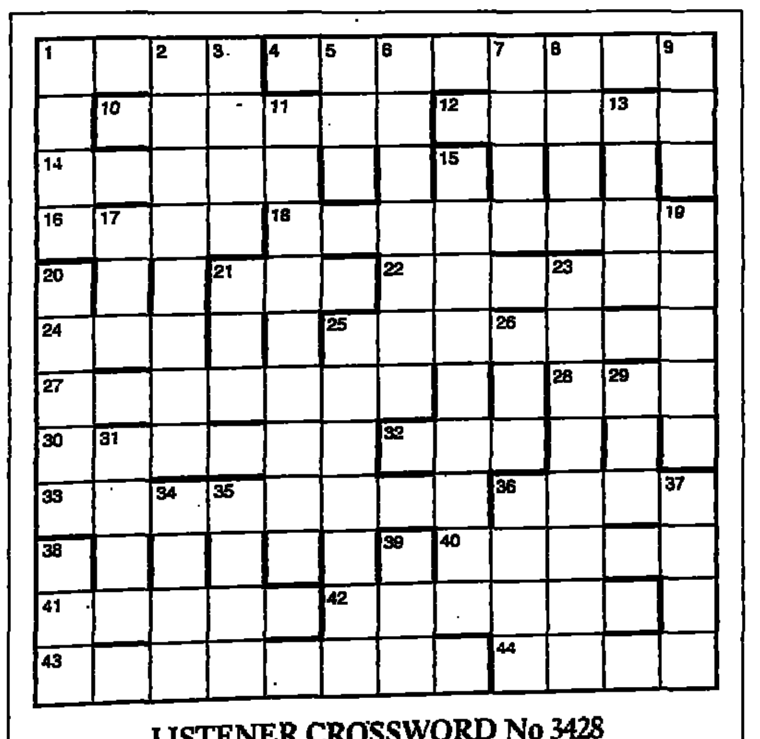
SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 126



The six winners are: W. Chalmers of Edinburgh; R. Stockford of Grange over Sands, Cumbria; M. Jones of St Leonards-on-Sea, E. Sussex; P.S. Pearce of Camborne, Cornwall; P.D. Gait of Harrow, London; D.G. Morgan of Altringham, Cheshire.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3428: Snags by Columba



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SNAGS in clues are of two kinds: (i) The clue contains an extra letter (the removal of which leaves a real word). (ii) A letter is omitted from the clue — always from the definition part.

Half the clues have snag (i), the other half snag (ii). The extra and omitted letters, taken in clue order, give four works A, B, C and D. Answers to clues must be adapted to produce grid entries, each of which is a real word. From twelve answers, A. The rest have B - or, put another way, they are in a C. The unclued entries (whose barred-off and mutually checking letters could give WHOA, WHOA: BULK ON CAMERA) are D.

Four entries are works from the same source as A, B, C and D. The source, typically, makes an oblique appearance, by means of a snag with another of D; solvers should shade or highlight this appearance.

All answers and entries, apart from one proper name, are in *Chambers* (1993).

ACROSS

1 Uproar in set embarrassed student who did typo?
10 Time in quiet centre of Port-Royal? Pascal describes it
18 Crowed on getting hold of current rare stamp
22 *What head's policy, halving a trip, will cause?*
24 Jumble sale in which you've got back seat for highness
27 Pa, perhaps, found fresh pigeon, having eaten mutton and duck
28 Gather cola's heady nuts come off it!
30 Engineers leading gov off? On the contrary
32 Lad, say, involved in histrionic arts
33 The vulgar gag has the power to trouble the French
36 What stories must possibly Charlie require?
40 Worthless money-maker, innocent? That's what the PC, corrupted, swears
42 Beginning to construct avenue, worked into it a camber
44 Picture made by one artist after stable's quiet

DOWN

1 Dance, having endless sport in North America
2 *Indicates spikes used in contest (2 words)*
5 See walk and hop?
7 Grained timber initially used
8 Ponder stolid caste of regime
9 Quite olid form of the sulphur
11 Register metal around advanced lode
13 Four busy boats: hard old sign by tavern's door?
15 Don't believe leaders of movie industry sanction cold, frigid censor
19 Swam, quiet, round Albania
20 Past master FBI agent tailed
21 Table linen monthly
25 Square metre zone's brought into focus
26 Dr Arnold's first among professionals in charge
29 Passive newt carp hit without resistance
31 Deli's brass pot, set article
34 Jock's mad account of new year celebration round loch
35 Ill in Cuba, hurt
36 Are characters fronting islanders confined cells?
37 Cross covered by Indian kharif
38 Migrant boy, vagabond chucking marble
39 Pace canal meandering around university.

D	B	U	T	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	S
O	R	I	O	L	E	A	L	A	M	O	C
G	O	P	N	F	G	B	E	B	U	V	A
S	N	O	G	S	A	B	U	L	C	E	R
I	C	L	A	G	R	I	V	E	K	R	C
C	O	L	L	U	D	E	A	T	A	N	E
E	P	U	L	I	S	O	L	I	V	E	R
F	R	X	A	D	E	L	A	N	E	T	S
R	A	M	P	A	G	I	N	G	R	T	E
O	N	I	O	N	E	X	I	S	T	E	D
N	K	N	O	C	K	K	N	E	E	D	A
T	E	M	P	E	R	A	E	L	D	I	N

Solution notes to No 3425: Carte Blanche Plus by Ploutos

CATS AND DOGS (Literal, two meanings)
CASTOR AND POLLUX (CASTOR-POLL-UX)
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (Anagram REPUGNANCE AT DAIL(y))
ROLAND & OLIVER (Anagram ONE RIVAL LORD)

If the numbers had been entered in the diagram the encoding is seen to be by adding the clue number to one of *the pair (Carte Blanche PLUS)*, thus:
CATS + 1 (DBUT)
CASTOR + 13 (PNFGBE)
PARENTAL + 17 (GRIVEKRC)
ROLAND + 23 (OLIXKA)

The winner is Mr G.A. Smith of Worcester Park, Surrey. The runners-up are Marie Gantier of Walton on Thames, Surrey; Dr D.R. Laney of Lympstone, Exmouth; Paul F. Henderson of London; M.A. Trollope of Worthing, W. Sussex; Mrs Jenny Keene of London.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

EXTREMELY strong hands opposite very weak ones are difficult to bid in any system. My old partner Jeremy Flint claimed he *was a net loser at rubber bridge* when he picked up hands with 28+ HCP, though I dare say he would have settled for getting one every deal. Often you lose points by getting *too high.*

The example below occurred in a match between teams captained by Ralph Katz and Nick Nickell, to determine the second USA team in the upcoming Bermuda Bowl.

♠AKQ10 ♥AKQ2 ♦A ♣KQJ10

As North you deal, vulnerable against not, and this is how the auction starts:

W	N	E	S
-	2 C	2 D	Dble
3 D	?		

South's double of Two Diamonds was negative, although at rubber bridge it would be for penalties. How do you develop your hand?

One possibility is to pass Three Diamonds. That is unequivocably forcing — you have opened with a game-forcing bid and so South must keep the bidding open.

Double is wrong: opposite a partner who has already announced he has nothing, that would be for penalties. If South has a five-card suit in spades, hearts or clubs, you will be lay-down for a slam, and many four-card holdings will also provide a good play for slam.

* Katz bid Four Diamonds, which should have led to North-South getting to the best contract. However, his partner's next bid switched them to the wrong track.

The full deal is shown in the next column.

North:
♠AKQ10
♥AKQ2
♦A
♣KQJ10

West:
♠J987
♥J10
♦7653
♣A62

East:
♠65
♥9864
♦KQ1098
♣53

South:
♠432
♥753
♦J42
♣9874

W	N	E	S
-	2 C	2 D	Dble
3 D	4 D	Pass	4 H
Pass	4 NT	Pass	5 C
Pass	6 H	All Pass	

Contract: Six Hearts by South
Lead: seven of diamonds

I presume South bid Four Hearts to keep open the option of playing in four of a major. But if North had a five-card major he would have bid it over Three Diamonds, so it was highly likely that Four Diamonds showed a three-suited hand. Thus South should just have gritted his teeth and bid Five Clubs — after all, North was asking him to bid his best suit.

After the diamond lead Six Hearts fell apart when both major suits were 4-2: it went five down. Six Clubs is a reasonable contract, although with no opposition bidding it would probably fail: declarer tries each major from the top, making the contract if one of them provides four tricks. But do you see how to make Six Clubs using the information provided by East's bid?

Declarer draws trumps, plays two top spades and three top hearts, then ruffs a heart in hand. When he plays a third spade towards dummy he knows East has four hearts, two clubs and presumably five diamonds. Thus he can finesse the ten *of spades with confidence.*

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

Solutions to the puzzles found on page 28

Question 1: Dingo — is canine, the others (tiger, panther and feline) are associated with the cat family.

Question 2: 7 (add the numbers top right and top left and divide by three)

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Q Is it impolite to let your guests see the video recorder switch on automatically while they are present? Does it imply that, but for them, you'd sooner be watching *Match of the Day*, *Neighbours*, the lottery etc? Or, as a bit of gamesmanship, should you deliberately set it for a classical music/intellectual programme (not necessarily with a tape in the machine) and openly refer to it?
D.V.T. Oxon.

A Your letter illustrates our ambivalent attitude towards technology, and reminds me of the length people go to to conceal their televisions (I know of one man who hides his behind a painting entitled *The Distant Horizon*). This being said, none but the most paranoid guests would assume that your video springing into action suggested a slur on their company. So programme away. However, I would recommend recording only items of genuine interest. Attempts at cultural pretentiousness, no matter how jokey, usually end in tears.

Q Please advise me on how to stop house guests raiding the larder and guzzling food that I have earmarked for specific meals. I am happy *for them to take items* intended for snacks.
George Dava, Morayshire.

A Try writing out each day's menu, explaining what each meal is to consist of, eg "Sat lunch: soup, cheese and salad. Sat dinner: roast lamb, onion sauce, new pots, peas; raspberries and cream." Stick the notes in the larder and/or on the fridge, and draw everyone's attention to them with the words: "I've posted the menus for all meals in case any of you are allergic to specific foodstuffs." Everyone should get the message.

Q May I tell you a story about "manners", certainly not modern although I think it may still apply. My grandmother, born in 1852 in a humble home, was, because of family illness, bundled into a boarding school at short notice. At the first meal she attended the mistress at her table requested: "Two plates for Miss Emily please." The plates were fetched and solemnly laid under the poor child's elbows. This sad little tale has certainly kept my elbows off dining-tables for the past 80 years.
Mrs K.M. Cook, Broadstone.

A Thank you for your letter. The schoolmistress would probably need industrial quantities of plates if she worked in a girls' boarding school today.

Q My friend is giving a birthday party for her seven-year-old daughter, to which our three children (nine, four and three) have been invited. Unfortunately, because of a previous family engagement, none of them can go. Apparently my friend's little girl is utterly miserable about this. What can we do to make amends?
Mrs G. Clark, Huddersfield.

A I suggest that your children host a small party for her at your house, with presents, cakes and all the trimmings. Such a treat will delight any little girl.

Q My father vehemently believed that women were the fairer sex and should be treated accordingly. Years of clips around the ear have brainwashed me into the following behaviour. First, I rocket to my feet whenever my girlfriend wants to go to the lavatory in a restaurant, much to her acute embarrassment. Second, I hold doors open for hours on end (particularly tricky at Harrods; tourists think you work there). Third, I offer my seat to women, regardless of age, on the Tube (never advisable when the young lady has a shaved head and is wearing army boots). What does the modern gentleman do?
James Russell, London W10.

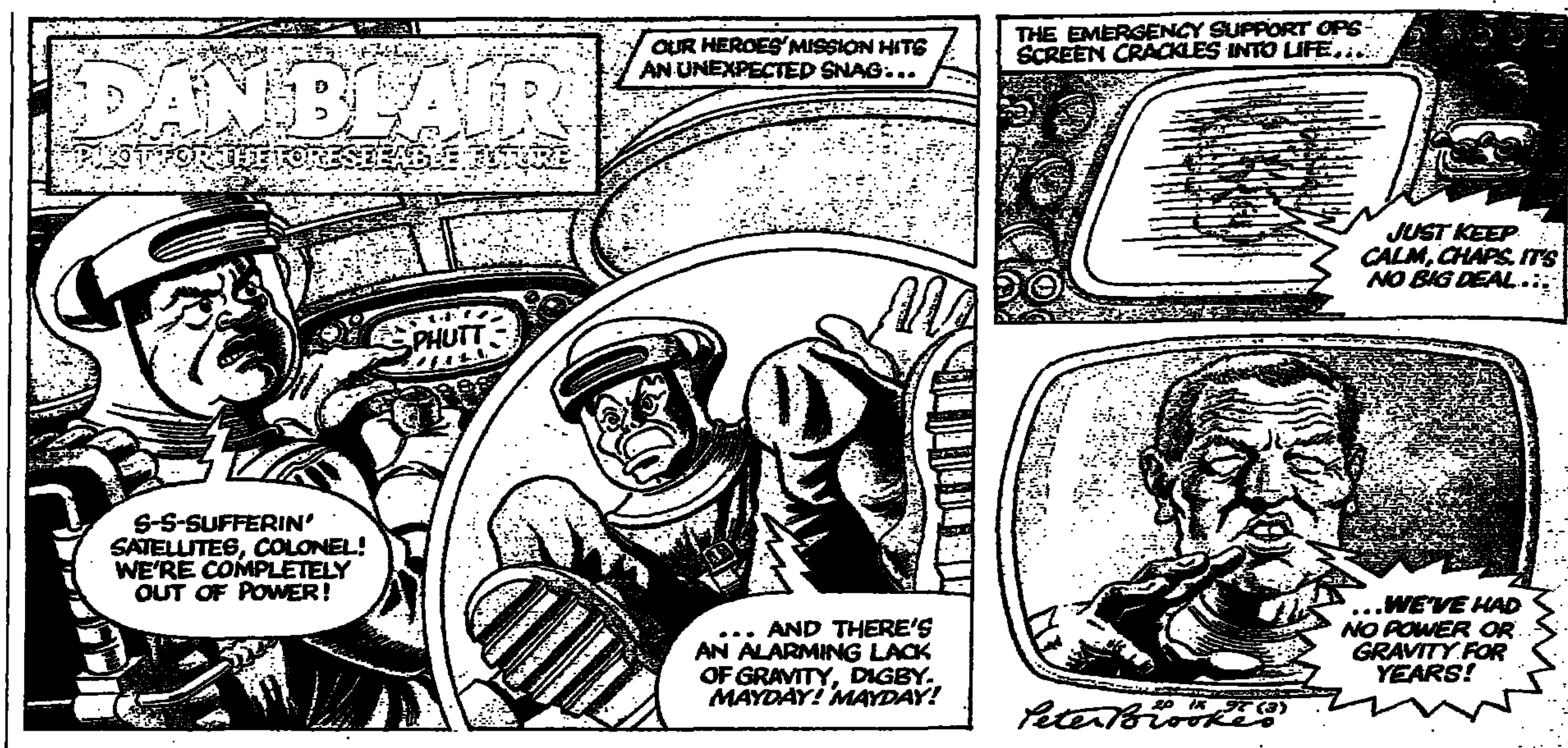
A It is still polite for a man to stand up for a woman when she enters a room, leaves the table in a restaurant and so on, although the Nasa-like lift-off you suggest is overdoing it. Try a more graceful ascent. Holding open doors in public should be similarly undramatic. Just keep moving while briefly holding the door. This technique, although occasionally ill-fated when practised by the novice, is foolproof once mastered. When offering your seat on the Tube, concerns for age have now largely replaced those of gender. Thus, modern manners suggest that any young person should surrender their seat to anybody who is old (or, indeed, infirm or pregnant).

Q I read with interest your guidelines on social kissing (Weekend, September 6). My question, writing as someone who loathes the habit, is how can I avoid these unwanted assaults?
Mrs J.M. MacKay, Edinburgh.

A You are not alone. I know a Hong Kong hostess who wore a large cage-like hat to deter kissers at her Chinese New Year party. I'm afraid it is not polite to refuse a social kiss, although subtle body language can act as a strong deterrent. On meeting, immediately shake hands, with just enough tension in your elbow to discourage the other person from lunging. Keeping your head quite vertical reinforces the message.

● *The author is associate editor of GQ.*

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, *Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London EC1 9XN.*


DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
OUR HEROES' MISSION HITS AN UNEXPECTED SNAG...
PHUTT
S-S-SUFFERIN' SATELLITES, COLONEL! WE'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF POWER!
... AND THERE'S AN ALARMING LACK OF GRAVITY, DIGBY. MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
THE EMERGENCY SUPPORT OPS SCREEN CRACKLES INTO LIFE...
JUST KEEP CALM, CHAPS. IT'S NO BIG DEAL...
...WE'VE HAD NO POWER OR GRAVITY FOR YEARS!
Peter Brookes 20 IX 97 (3)

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHEAPER
a. A wagtail
b. A liar
c. A bidder

CAVENDISH
a. A carriage
b. A cloak
c. Cake tobacco

CHITTY
a. The chiffchaff
b. A cream cake
c. Lean and pinched

CORRUMP
a. To sneeze
b. To mar
c. The buttocks

Answers on page 21

TWO BRAINS

"The experts tell you that, as you get older, your brain shrinks and you can't memorise so much. But it's actually the reverse. If you compare my results with 1993, the amount of information that I memorised this year has doubled since then, even though my brain is supposedly shrinking. So it's simply not true. It's a case of if you don't use it, you lose it. The answer is: exercise your brain daily as I do and it will get stronger." — World Memory Champion Dominic O'Brien, after his successful 1997 defence of his title.

Question 1:
Which is the odd word out?
Terig, Nelfei, Oding, Retnahp

Question 2
Insert the missing number

```
16          11
      9
25          14
      13
16          5
      ?
```

Answers on page 27. R.K.

CROSSWORDS

by Brian Greer

Fine judgment is needed to decide what words and phrases are acceptable for inclusion in the crossword. We rely mainly on three dictionaries, namely the Concise Oxford, Collins, and Chambers. The last of these contains many more archaic and obscure words, including my favourite, "taghairm", defined thus: "in the Scottish Highlands, divination; esp. inspiration sought by lying in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall". As a rule of thumb, any word which is not in both the C.O.D and Collins is suspect, while any word that is in neither is taboo.

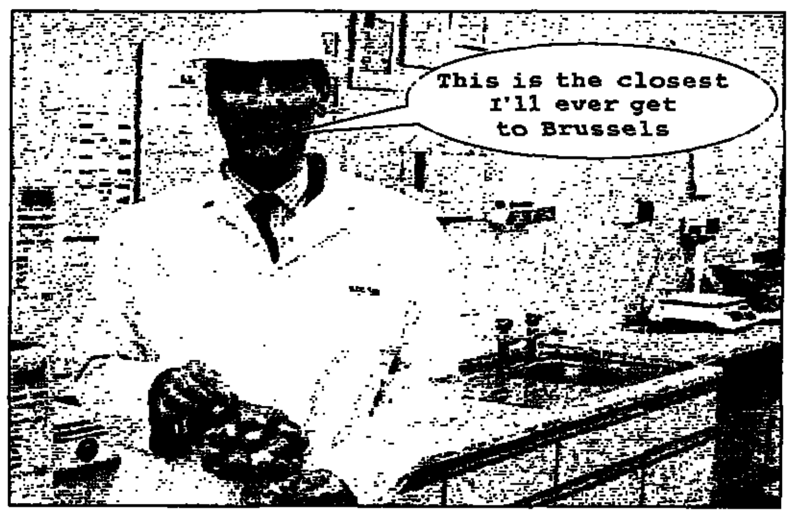
I also follow the C.O.D. lead in trying to avoid offensive, or potentially offensive, words (please let me know if you come across any cases that concern you). Generally, too, we are rather prudish, though I must take personal responsibility for the clue: "In which three couples get together for sex (5)."

Proper nouns require even more delicate judgments as to whether they are reasonably familiar. Unlike Jowett, the polymathic Master of Balliol who turned up in the Qualifying Puzzle for this year's championship, and of whom it was said that what he didn't know wasn't knowledge, I work on the basis that if I don't know something, it is too obscure (but by no means always the converse).

Collins Dictionary, which contains proper nouns, is a useful rough guide as to what can reasonably be considered well known, but in the end, subjective judgments are unavoidable. One absolute rule is that we avoid any references to living people, the sole exception being ER to refer to the monarch.

Our overall aim is that the crossword should rarely stump, solely through obscurity, a solver who does not have reference works to hand. On the other hand, one of the spin-offs from doing crosswords is the addition of interesting new words to one's vocabulary ("jobsworth", "ankle-biter", and "anecdotage" spring to mind).

PICTURE LINE


This is the closest I'll ever get to Brussels

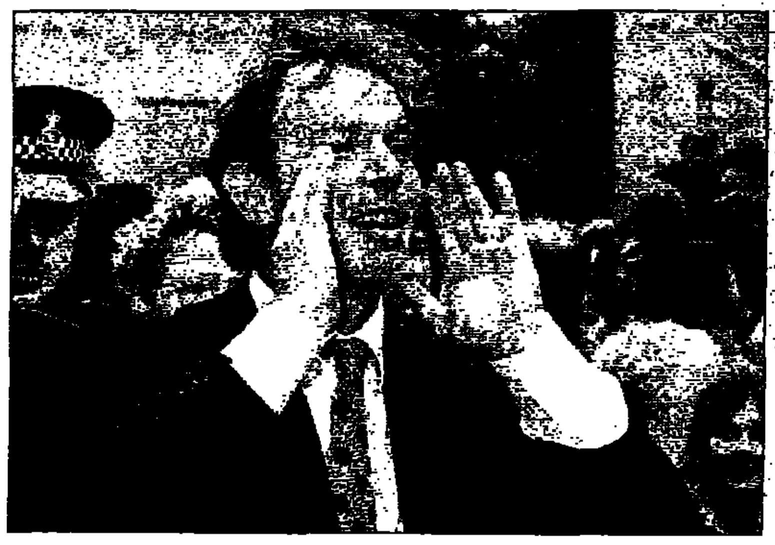
The winning caption for last week's picture competition was submitted by Brian Davies, of Blewbury, Oxfordshire.

READERS are invited to suggest what the person in the picture below is saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

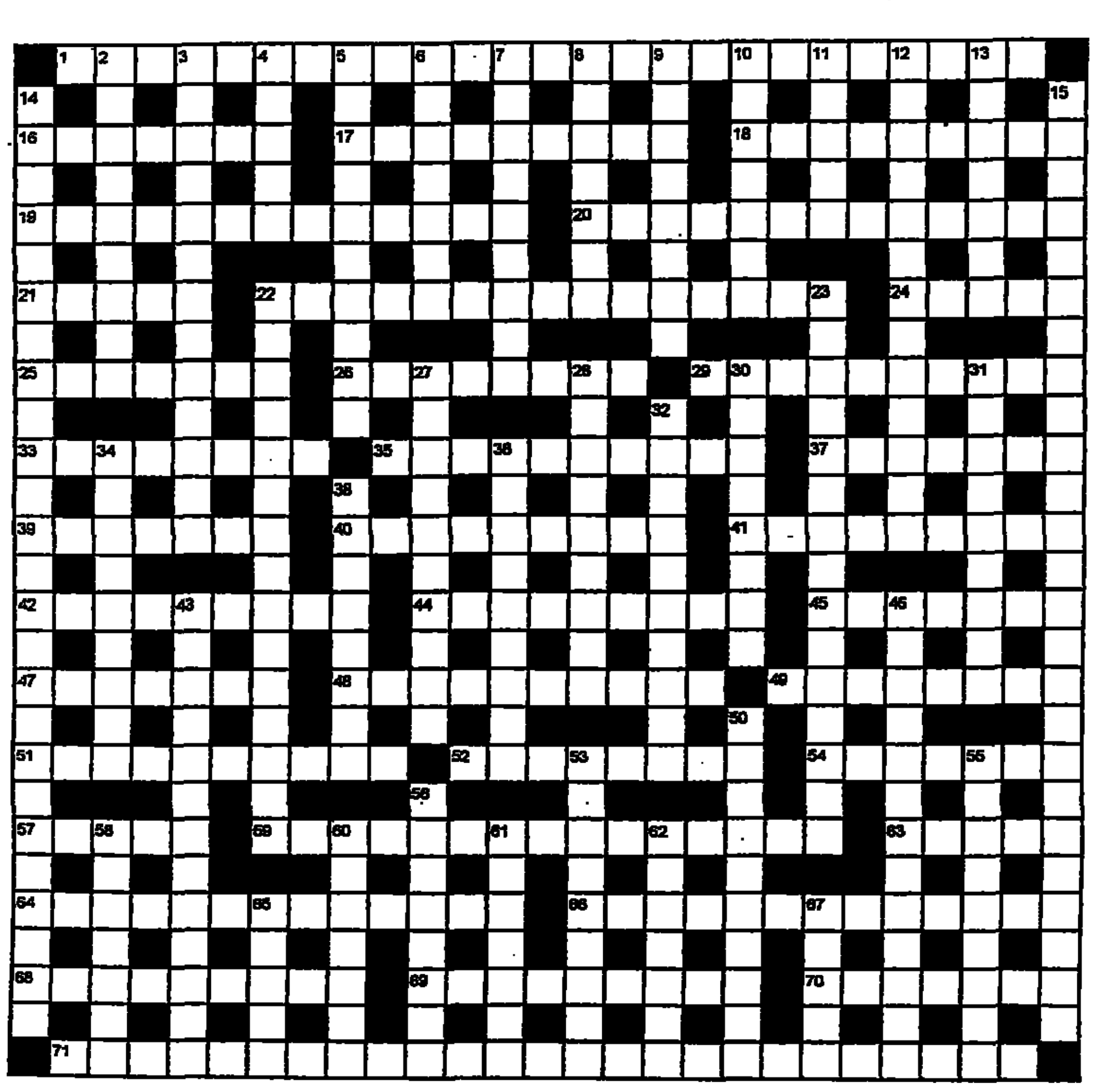
Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 24.



JUMBO CROSSWORD 128

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 128, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday September 29. The names of the winners will be published in Weekend on Saturday, October 4

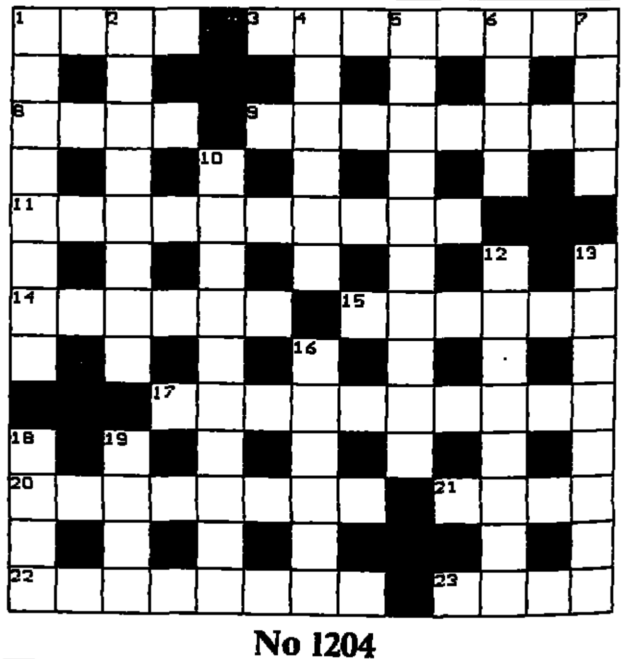


NAME ....
ADDRESS ....
....
.... POSTCODE ....

ACROSS
1 American playwright's query regarding Orlando producer (4,6,2,8,5)
16 Where Wedgwood's potters were regularly dexterous, turning for appearance (7)
17 Author churning out five English sonnets (9)
18 News channels assess the worth of dropping half of old items (9)
19 Vivien or Victoria? (4,2,3,4)
20 Marian dressed in marocain cloth (5,8)
21 If this turned, would you notice? (5)
22 Conservative's attitude in a way makes good sense (5-10)
24 One following king for divine influence (5)
25 Region a county's reorganised — but nothing's given away (7)
26 The first person to tell the story (8)
29 I've a passing interest (10)
33 Kernel from Chile used in mixing coral red dye (8)
35 She's in charge, mother complains before son enters (10)
37 Paint remover blowing head for drug taker (7)
39 Dyestuff processed from corn oil (7)
40 What brigadier may come to when flying? (3,6)
41 Rat badly on sister, perhaps? She would do (9)
42 Nagging little sister determined to go outside (9)
44 Card game that's right by Scotsman — like a Scots mathematician (9)
45 Having the bomb, Greek character's easily understood (7)
47 Drop bad tennis shot after returning flyer (7)
48 What uprose with Lias rocks, perhaps? (10)
49 Take a plaster after accident in the gymnasium (8)
51 Finished exams about English country music? (10)
52 Damage count's old fortification (8)
54 Little air that is dry in 50% of Arabia (7)
57 Birthmarks on heads never are entirely visible, one found (5)
59 Did they have some distance to go in achieving world unity? (6,2,7)
63 Eastern ruler gives great warrior diamonds (5)
64 Vote in — if Liberal's almost organised and able to take charge (13)
66 Where one can entertain with signal success? (9,4)
68 Company going to a church gallery like pressed flowers, perhaps (9)
69 Yorkshireman's taken over train route built originally for cross-country transport (5,4)
70 Partially viewed a Centaur or a Lapith in the early light (7)
71 Show of optimism in comedian's refusal to quit performimg? (5,6,4,6,4)

DOWN
2 63 books by American historian (9)
3 Language, too — *Carribean's* wrong! (5-8)
4 What is bound to start embarrassment in lent? (5)
5 Cleaning up having arranged strange bet (10)
6 Found, as Caesar noted briefly, crossing the Rubicon? (3-4)
7 Girl cried with fear when panicked (9)
8 Accustomed to hold son safe in case of loss? (7)
9 One offering head of gods some honeyed drink, it's related (8)
10 One put up — put up a long time around one of the digs (7)
11 Read about a family of herons (5)
12 Depraved lingo is earthy? He'll allow no filth to cross one's lips (4,9)
13 Some call a volt-ampere an old measure (7)
14 Divorce decree, possibly a source of conflict in the US (11,2,12)
15 The nature of a hymn (3,9,5,3,5)
22 Five men left home for the proms (5,6,4)
23 Enthusiast taken in by charming New York president makes nothing at all (5,5,5)
27 Fast bird showing the way to ski (10)
28 Assume too much, ignoring propriety? (9)
30 Putting forward one to participate in military assignment (8)
31 Put power behind tool (9)
32 As live US broadcast in colour could be? (10)
34 Hurries after birds — fair targets? (9)
36 Nero's mother keeping a firm grasp on pain when tortured (9)
38 Shrewish wife, cross and almost lean before exercising (8)
43 With reasoned argument, 1 class it disturbed to hold doll upside-down (13)
46 Chapter has note on fluid line and cunning in classical structure (9,4)
50 It's all around the world — poisoner, he's murdered! (10)
53 Mark in score lent force to wind (5,4)
55 Fish has no tail to support means of propulsion (9)
56 He's taken after Bantus, turning brown (8)
58 Pretentious talk: Introduction to English Trees (7)
60 Bad temper showing in an Eastern Texas town (7)
61 Garb "white-collar" evokes? Essentially, the reverse (7)
62 Abstract painter reveals his in intuitive perception (7)
65 To sleep in that thing's not appropriate (5)
67 One magician's character (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1204

ACROSS
1 Worthless, seed, cover (4)
3 For discriminating customers (8)
8 Back of neck (4)
9 Stiff open-weave fabric (8)
11 Close down (business) (4,2,4)
14 In lenient fashion (6)
15 Plan, outline; plot (6)
17 Very angry indeed (7,3)
20 Hostile (to) (8)
21 18 round saint's head (4)
22 Stimulant in tea, coffee (8)
23 Feeble (4)

DOWN
1 Generous: attractive (8)
2 Sevenfold (8)
4 Commendation (6)
5 Up-to-date facilities (in house) (3,3,4)
6 Bird; airborne toy (4)
7 Shade (of colour) (4)
10 Fr. beheading instrument (10)
12 Penetrate: diffuse through (8)
13 Impasse; sounds like *Sir Leicester — (Bleak House)* (8)
16 Wrench (joint) (6)
18 Flat plate: may be compact (4)
19 Feudal land-holding (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1203
ACROSS: 1 Rhea 4 Scansion 8 Graduate 9 Rife 10 Shame 11 Fan mail 13 Pounce 15 Dodger 18 Weighty 20 Agape 23 Trio 24 Operatic 25 Internet 26 Sped
DOWN: 2 Harsh 3 Abdomen 4 Scar 5 Adelaide 6 Serum 7 Offside 10 Sip 12 Meltdown 14 Overrun 16 Dog days 17 Roe 19 Grove 21 Prize 22 Next

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DICTIONARIES. Collins £25. Chambers £25 (both on IBM CD-ROM £28.99). Crossword Solvers' Dictionary £11.95. Roget's Thesaurus £14.99 (Hb). Astronomy £8.99. ALSO Crossword Manual £10.99. Crossword Completer £13.99. English Grammar and Usage £13.99. RHS Plantfinder 1997/98 £13.99.

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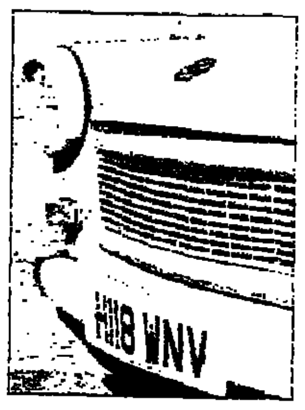
هذا من الاعلى

هكذا من الاهلي

Play Formula One and win a Jordan nosecone
Page 3

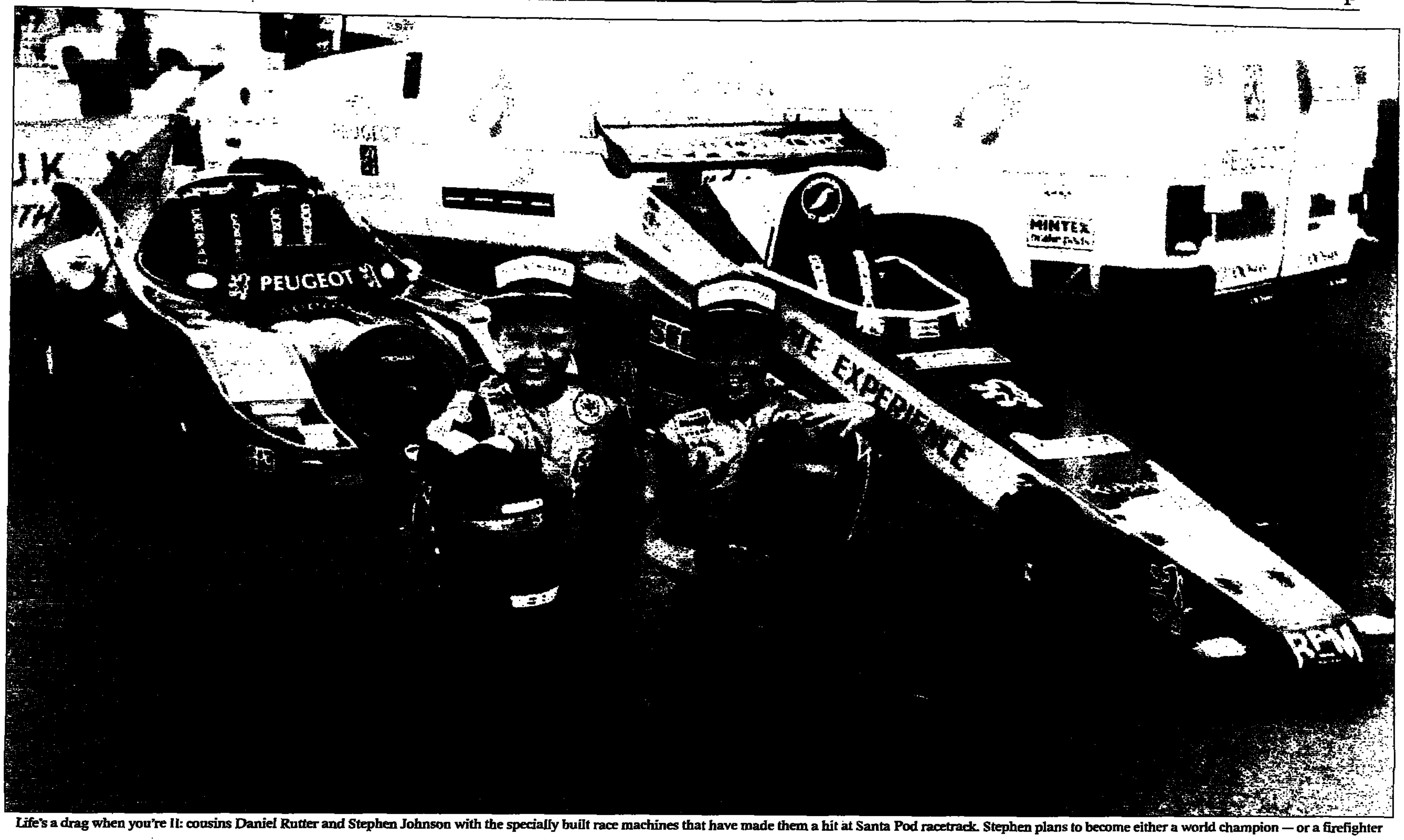
THE TIMES
CAR 97

Readers name the world's worst motors
Page 5



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 1997

Morag Preston meets the racer who became a record-breaker aged four, with his grandfather's help



Life's a drag when you're 11: cousins Daniel Rutter and Stephen Johnson with the specially built race machines that have made them a hit at Santa Pod racetrack. Stephen plans to become either a world champion — or a firefighter

No kidding, it's the boy racers

Stephen Johnson says he has the best grandfather in the world. A common assumption among 11-year-old boys, but what makes Stephen's grandad so special is his fleet of hand-built racing cars designed especially for children.

Simple toys these are not. Stephen's first machine propelled him into the record books at the age of four. Now he is teamed with his cousin, and the pair of racetrack tyros are pursued by television cameras and autograph hunters.

The story began when Stephen was diagnosed with a rare disease and hospitalised nine years ago. To brighten his spirits, his grandfather promised to build him a racing car. It was a promise that fired Stephen's toddler imagination. He spent months in hospital studying pictures in motoring magazines, and set his mind on one machine — an American-style hot-rod.

Two years later, the feisty four-year-old broke his first world speed record, reaching 22.7mph along a quarter-mile strip. Three years after that, he broke his second world record. Seated behind the wheel of a mini-version of the Batmobile, he broke the 20-second barrier over an eighth of a mile. Says his proud grandfather: "Stephen could drive before he could walk."

Stephen, and Daniel Rutter, his cousin of the same age, are pint-sized heroes in the world of junior drag racing. Crowds of 35,000 turn up to see them at Santa Pod Raceway, near Northampton. International television crews wait to capture them on film, and autograph hunters are often on their trail. Christened "The Kindred Race Team", they have attracted support from a range of sponsors. The boys, who both live in Cannock, near Birmingham, have raised thousand of pounds for charities, and Stephen's progress has given hope to parents of children with *Hirschsprung's Disease*, a rare bowel disorder.

Brian Eyre, Stephen's devoted grandfather, built his first vehicle from a bed frame and an old army generator engine. "It carried two children at about 20mph, until the centres fell out of the heavy-duty pram wheels," he says. Eyre went on to run a motor spares business in his native West Midlands, where he sold parts to a promising young racer called Nigel Mansell. Now, he is a semi-retired businessman, living in North Wales, who says his hobby is rapidly turning into a full-time job.

Grandfather Brian Eyre with his latest creation for the cousins. It should hit 60mph in less than three seconds

The first American hot-rod that Eyre made was a perfect miniature. It came complete with an imitation V8 engine, although the real power came from two electric motors, a deep buttoned leather interior, and a stereophonic sound system. In 1992, "Bat Magic" was born, transformed from a basic children's car bought at Harrods. Then came "Burning Desire", based on Tom Cruise's Nascar racer from the film *Days of Thunder*. Stephen's car, "Ultimate Experience", a 12ft Concorde lookalike, set three new speed records on its first outing last season. With a 500cc engine, it reaches speeds of 75mph.

Eyre has just completed a new car, using the Nascar body from "Burning Desire" with a new car underneath it. He is also working on a 12ft-long re-vamped version of "Ultimate Experience". Both cars will easily be able to reach 0-60mph in three seconds.

Each will have taken around 400 hours to complete, and will be worth at least £20,000. "It's worth every bit when you hear them crank up for the first time," says Eyre.

Stephen has his sights set on becoming either a world champion — or a firefighter. His walls are covered with posters of Nigel Mansell, and he looks forward to victory celebrations when chocolate gateaux is allowed as a special treat. Standing at just over 4ft 4in, his grandad describes him as a "cool dude".

According to Eyre: "Stephen takes it all in his stride. As far as he's concerned there are only two speeds — flat out and stop — with nothing in-between."

Unlike Stephen, cousin Daniel admits to being a "bit nervous" in the run-up to a big race. However, Eyre says his grandson is usually tucking into a big hamburger only minutes before heading off to the starting line.

Meanwhile, Stephen and Daniel's mothers sit nervously by the racetrack. "Safety is an important issue," says Eyre. "But I am one of those people who doesn't do anything by halves. I make sure that danger is kept to a minimum. The cars are fitted with every safety feature from full harness seatbelts to rubber-lined roll cages, and the boys wear three-layer firesuits."

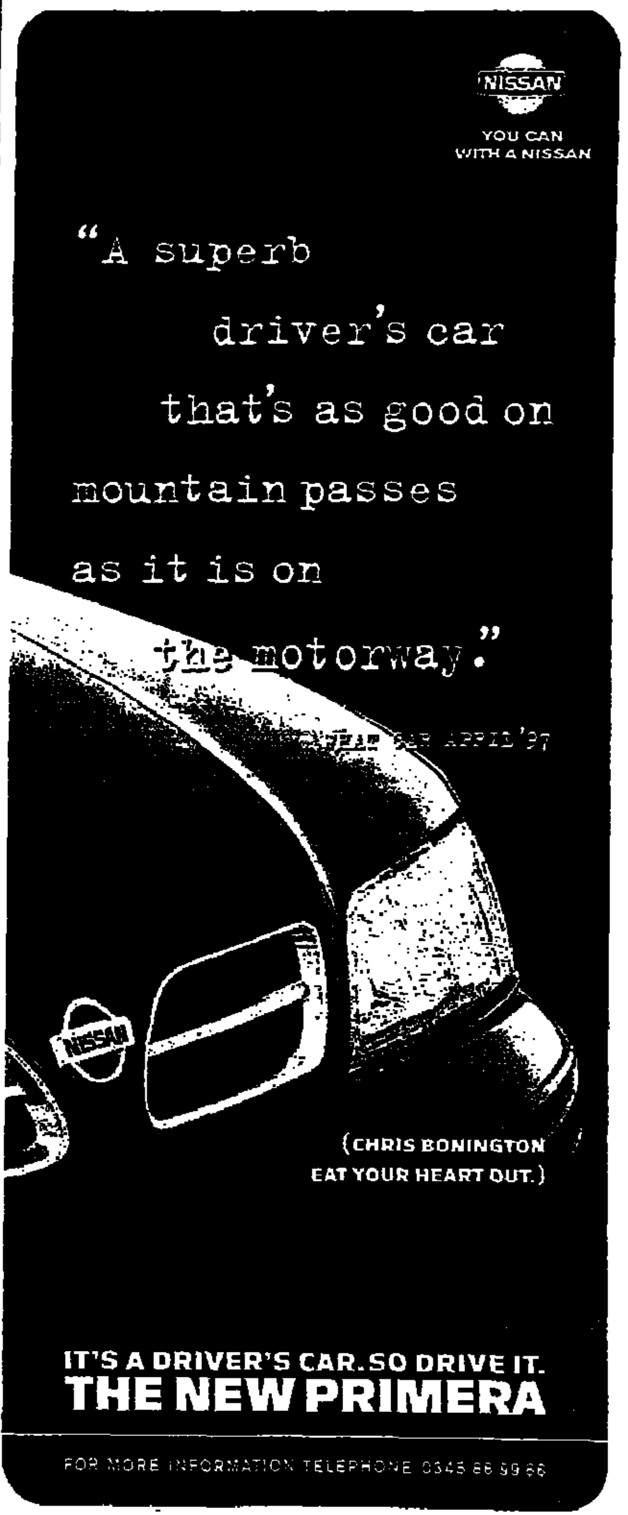
The Kindred Race Team is now seeking new sponsors. The boys attend at least five major international meetings a year at Santa Pod, but without a sponsor, they are without transport.

A series of projects has been pencilled in for next year, and the boys have recently been asked to spearhead the launch of the first official junior drag-racing class at Santa Pod. Eyre says he wants to help raise the profile of drag racing in the UK to the level it enjoys in America. Meanwhile, the boys are keeping him busy in his garage.

"Sourcing the parts from all over the world is one of the biggest problems. Discussing what I want to do with the boys over the breakfast table is the easy part. Then I have to collect the parts together and design the car around them. You start off with the optimum design, and work around that. But the boys are always keen to muck in.

"Although it's run around kids and charity, this team is as professional as any other. We have proper race suits, a proper pit set-up, on-board computers and even pit-to-car radio. At Santa Pod we can even patch in the pit-to-car radio to the public address system so the crowd can hear the boys making their checks before a run.

"We try to keep the terminal speed down. Ultimate Experience will run a 17-second standing quarter. If the car crashed at 120mph it would be dangerous, but if we can keep the terminal speed down to 60mph with the amount of crash protection provided, the driver should be able to walk away from any accident."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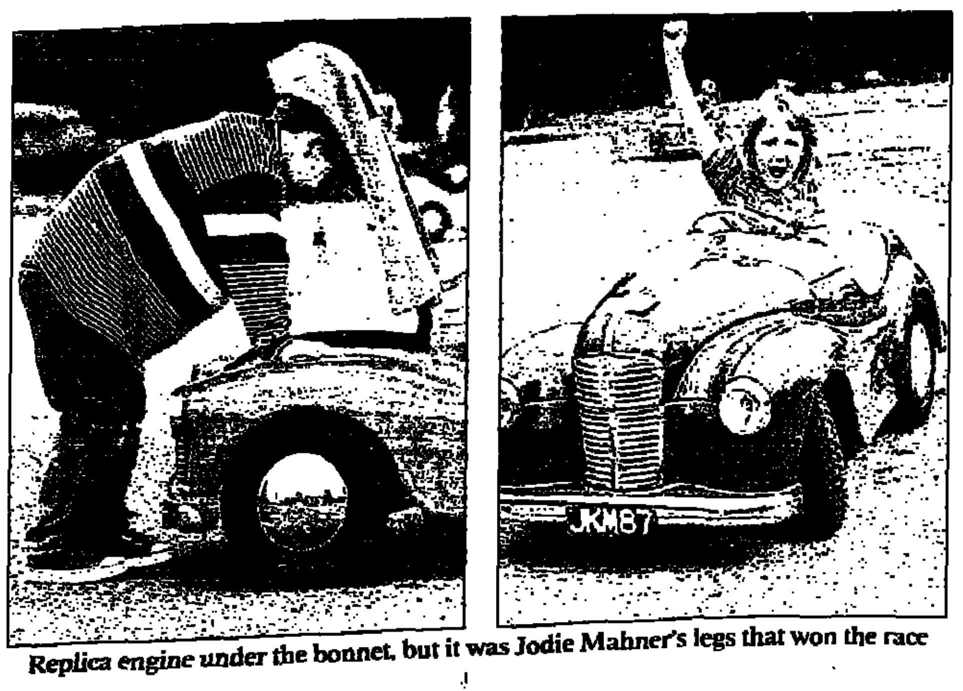


Replica engine under the bonnet, but it was Jodie Mahner's legs that won the race

As the finishing line approached, the pint-sized racers pedalled their little legs off, hitting speeds of up to 15mph as they battled for first place at the annual meeting of the Austin J40 Pedal Car Club.

Club president Alfred Ash, 85, was there to hand out prizes. But his involvement goes much deeper than that: he was part of the team who created the miniature car that has turned out to be a collector's item. Also at the meeting was his daughter Marcia, who test-drove the first version ever made.

In 1946, Ash's eight-year-old daughter accompanied him to the Austin production plant in Longbridge to put "Joy I" to the test. A year later, the original design, based on the Austin 8 and Austin 10, was abandoned in favour of a lighter model, based on the new Austin Devon. The original protoype, hand-built and finished in maroon, was rediscovered only last year. Snapped up by the Pedal Car Club for £3,200, it is currently on tour in the UK.

Leonard Lord, then managing director, decided that it would be a good idea to make the tiny cars from the Austin factory in Bargoed, South Wales. Ex-miners suffering from lung disease, exempt from heavy manual work, went to work on the cars, which weighed just 95lbs.

Designed as toys, Austin J40s (the "J" stood for Junior) were sometimes given away as part of a promotional package along with the full-scale version. Between 1948 and 1971, around 32,000 were made at an original cost of £20 each (the full-scale version would have cost £400.) More than 500 Austin J40s still exist, but they now sell at around £1,000 each.

Steel off-cuts from the full-scale cars were shipped overnight from Longbridge to Bargoed. Complete with a dummy engine, handbrake, chrome bumpers and hub cap, pneumatic tyres, horn, and working lights, the cars are faithful replicas of the adult version.

The cars are best suited to children aged between three and 13-years-old, although comedian Norman Wisdom once pedalled one for a film. Red was perhaps the most popular colour for the car, but it was also available in others, including blue, white, and sage green.

A new poster publicity campaign may make it appear that the Government is doing something to cut road deaths, but what is needed is better laws

Slower speeds take faster MPs

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

The campaign launched by the Government this week to cut road deaths caused by speeding ought to be welcomed by everyone. The poster showing William Blacklock, the teenager killed by a speeding motorist near his home, carries the phrase "at times we all drive a bit too fast", and if that sounds bland it surely strikes at the heart of the problem: yes, at times we all do.

There is no gainsaying the fact that if everyone stuck to the speed limit in built-up areas there would be fewer accidents and fewer deaths.

To that extent the campaign is on the right track. But there are a couple of points that need to be made before we get too carried away with the notion that an advertising campaign is all that is needed to reduce the death toll.

I have said before in this space that we live in a society that is fond of the grand gesture and not very good at paying attention to detail. Every time some emotive issue is placed in the public arena there is on the part of politicians a rush to legislate, a rush to be seen "doing something". Often a quieter approach would have the same effect.

Britain has too many laws that do not work properly, and much of the reason for them being ineffective is sloppy drafting. Stern punishments do have some effect in taking dangerous drivers off the road, but what are we to make of the law relating to dangerous driving itself?

One might have thought that the 19-year-old whose speeding led to the death of William Blacklock would have been charged with dangerous driving, but he was not. He was fined £150 for careless driving and £200 for having no insurance. The definition of dangerous within the meaning of the legislation is driving that is "far below acceptable standards".

CAUTION
REDUCE SPEED OF LEGISLATION NOW
MP
MP
MP
MP
MP
MP

This explains why we read of so many cases where a driver has caused mayhem but is charged with a relatively minor offence. How is one to demonstrate in court what is an "acceptable standard"? How does the court define "far below"? How far is far? It is simply absurd that bad drivers are strolling away from courts because Parliament cannot be bothered to define offences tightly.

And then there is the lollipop lady. For the lollipop lady (I know some are men, but most are ladies) is another whose activity is undermined by bad drafting. Lollipop ladies, or school crossing attendants as they are formally known, are appointed by the local authority and the individual schools, but their right to do what they do and the extent of the protection they offer is covered by the 1988 Road Traffic Act.

And, of course, lollipop ladies often operate on the very types of road that this week's campaign is all about. So let us consider a busy parent arriving at school with a seven-year-old pupil, plus two toddlers who have come along because there is no one else to look after them.

The lollipop lady walks to the centre of the road and waves the family across. You would think that the parent and all three children were safely in the care of the lollipop lady, but they are not. Due to a positively lunatic piece of drafting, only children "of school age" are covered.

In theory the attendant could refuse to help the toddlers and the parent cross the road. This rarely happens, but it is a fact that there is no legal come-back, either on the crossing attendant or the local authority, if either the parent or one of the non-school age children was to be knocked down by a car.

The Department of Transport told me this week that there is an "anomaly" in the Act and a draft amendment is awaiting some Parliamentary time. MPs return next month after their recess, so can we look forward to an amendment?

If it is not passed very soon, and if something is not done about the wording of the dangerous driving law very soon, we shall be forced to conclude that governments are good at high-profile advertising campaigns but less enamoured of unglamorous but effective work done behind the scenes.

Unhappy return for fan's stolen classic Lancia

An enthusiast must pay £2,000 to get his car back, says **Tony Dawe**

The final chapter in the long and scandalous saga of a stolen classic car will be written in the next few days when a 1937 Lancia Aprilia is finally returned to its rightful owner.

The story will not, however, have a happy ending. For David Watson, who had owned and loved the car for 25 years before its theft, must pay £2,000 to recover his own property and there are no signs of closing the legal loophole that could affect thousands of motorists.

Watson's problems arose because his Aprilia was purchased in good faith by a classic car enthusiast before he even realised it had disappeared. The new buyer had no way of knowing the car had been stolen and even if he had checked its ownership with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency he would have been denied the information.

As *CAR 97* reported earlier this year, the first Watson knew of the theft was when he read a letter from Peter Willmer, the new owner, asking for information about the car in the Lancia Motor Club magazine.

Watson, a freelance designer of Lowestoft, Suffolk, thought he had done everything to protect his ownership. He had kept his receipt from 1961 for the car, the 15th built and one of the oldest surviving examples, still possessed the original registration documents and had re-registered the vehicle at his latest address with the DVLA.

His one mistake was to leave the car untouched in a lock-up garage — while he waited for the funds and time to restore it — for such a long time that the thief thought it was fair game. The thief, David Janes of St Albans, sold the Aprilia to Tancred Barratt, Lancia specialists of Callow Hill near Kidderminster, who had in turn sold it to Willmer of Solihull, West Midlands, who begun restoration work on the car.

Janes was eventually tracked down by police and fined £200 by St Albans magistrates in November last year. But that did not help Watson recover the car. He had already begun a civil action against Barratt and Willmer and the police were reluctant to intervene.

Watson hired a specialist to examine the car and the work done on it, produced his own report challenging the accuracy of the restoration work, arranged witness statements and photographs to back up his case.

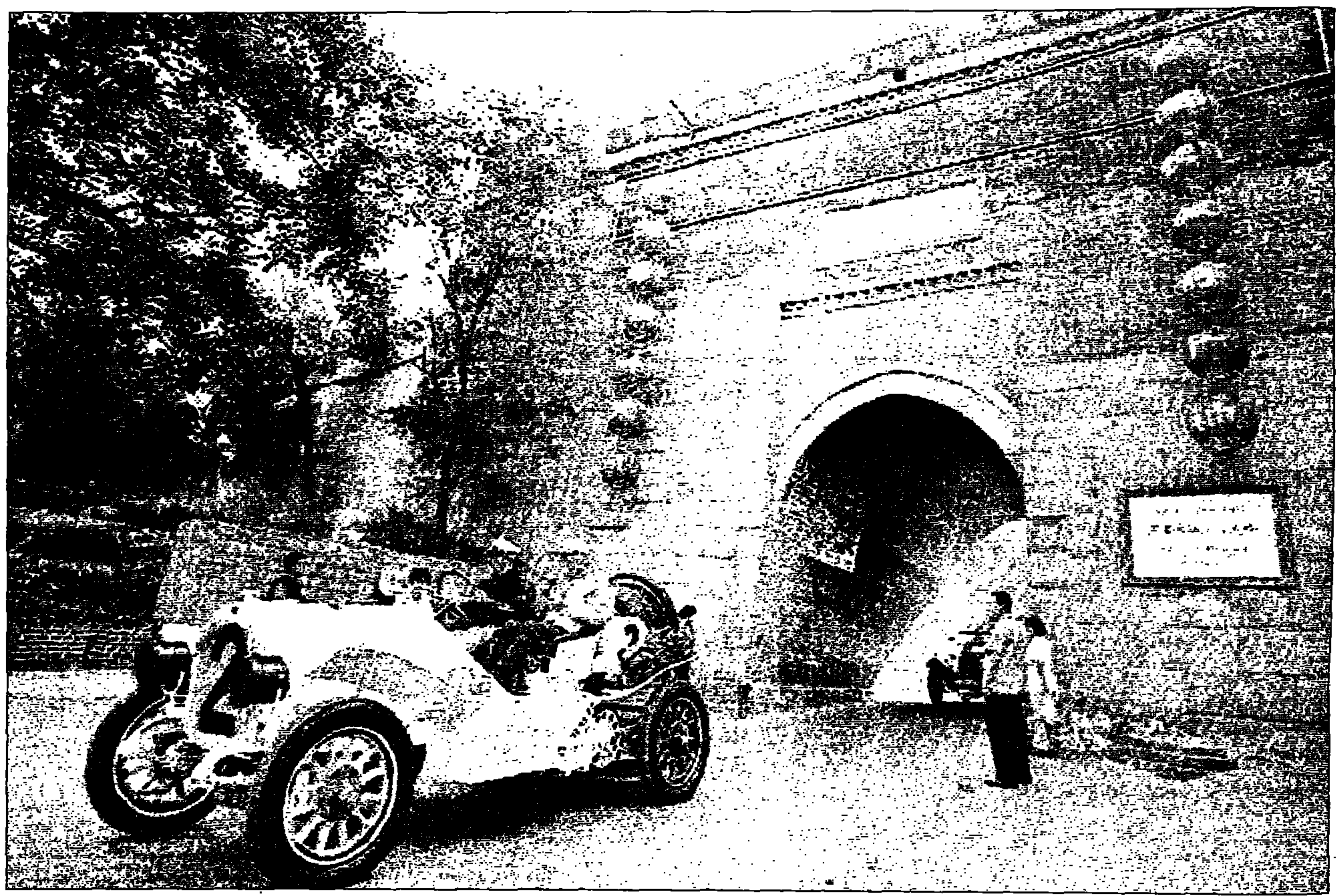
A day before the trial earlier this month, the three men finally agreed, on legal advice, to settle the action out of court. Watson would have preferred to pursue the case but was warned of a large legal bill, running into £30,000 which he could face if he lost the action.

Under the terms of the agreement, Willmer was refunded the money he had paid Barratt for the car and its restoration, and will return the car when Watson has paid Barratt for the "betterment" of the vehicle.

"I will finish up having to pay £2,000 to get my car back minus many of the spare parts, which have disappeared," Watson says. "After nearly two years of trying to establish the facts conclusively and get back to the position before the theft. I have come out with considerably less. The episode has caused me considerable stress and taken up much of my time."

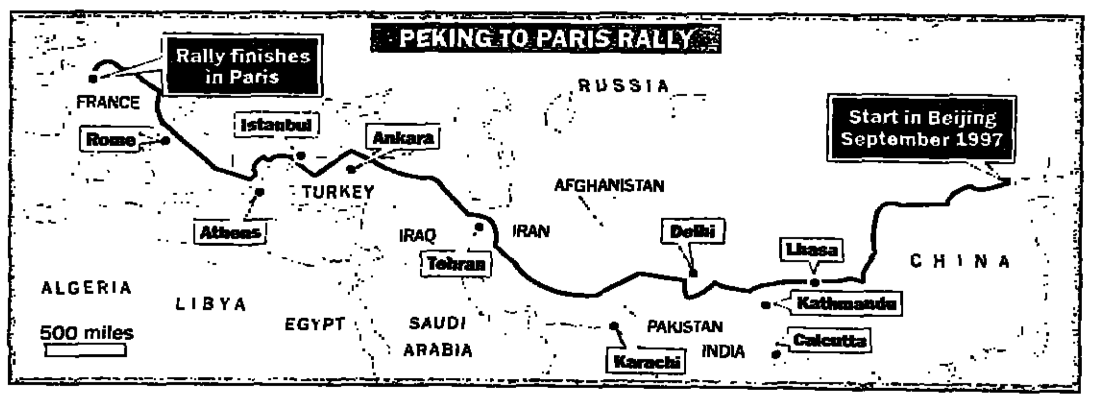
David Watson is now set to have his Lancia returned after settling out of court in a long and costly wrangle

Tibet beats the Phantom V



The 1907 La France sets off from the Great Wall of China for Lhasa (below right): sadly the car was forced to retire after its driver, Herman Layher, contracted hypothermia

STUART CLARKE



So now **Lord Montagu** is hitch-hiking

I began to fear I was a jinx as we arrived in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. Having set out from the Great Wall of China outside Beijing to the sound of Chinese dragons, firecrackers and drums. I was distressed when my trusty 1915 Vauxhall Prince Henry finally let go after several frustrating days with an overheating radiator.

There was no other option but to start hitch-hiking to stay on the challenge, and what better seat to pick than that used by the Queen, in an ex-Australian governor general's Phantom V, entered by a plucky team of Australians, who had room to spare on the luxurious leather rear seat.

Last week we camped under the stars beside Qinghai Hu, China's largest lake. More than 200 enthusiasts from 24 different nations, tried different ways of camping beside their classic cars. Those that got it wrong awoke to a layer of frost on their sleeping bags. But their misery was relieved by the wholesome food provided by the Nepalese caterers.

Our big black Rolls-Royce, owned by Sydney surgeon John Matheson, purred on towards Tibet. At Golmud, the start of the climb to the roof of the world, we shacked down in a rough hotel.

But then came an even more distressing breakdown. Having gone up every hill in top gear, the Phantom V broke a rear leaf sping, which is irreplaceable here in Lhasa. So instead, the car arrived on a truck.

It was a great blow.

We have lost some lovely cars. The 10-litre aero-engined 1907 La France was going great guns, outperforming many a more modern car, but Herman Layher at the wheel suffered from having the wrong clothes, went down with hypothermia, and was found naked in a nomad's Yurt tent drying out his Barbour motorcycle outfit, being entertained on Yak stew and by shepherds smoking a strange weed. Rally doctors all voted reluctantly that Herman be told he could not carry on.

Setting out of Golmud there were still 90 healthy sounding cars. It is cold, but wonderfully striking countryside. Motoring memories that last a lifetime are made of moments like this, the first rally to climb the world's highest road.

It is the only road between China and Tibet that is kept open all year despite ice and rain. This is the peak time of year for repairs: there must have been a least 500 men working on each 100km stretch, but bridges are down and parts of the road are washed away, so constant diversions are needed through mud, rocks and ruins.

Nevertheless it was a sensational drive ranging from snow-capped mountains to high pasture for yaks and sheep. To give China her due, the roads are reasonably straight, with very long climbs or gentle grandients.

Warnings of gloom from Rally Director Philip Young that at this altitude heavily overloaded cars will not cope were taken to heart by some who romped up the slopes — others who did not consider such advice are all now looking for welding shops.

Bear in mind that there are no service crews, no team managers, no radio sets, no tyre dumps, no mechanical ants on every mountain to attend to our every need. There are none of the comforts today's modern rally driver enjoys on world championship events restricted to just three days of motoring over roads that they have practised well beforehand. One can appreciate why *The Times* has described the Peking to Paris Motor Challenge as the world's toughest rally. Navigation, reliability, team spirit, may sound like old fashioned qualities, but these are very much to the fore.

We dropped down to Lhasa on the very day that the Chinese Government announced in Peking that they had found the original site of Shangri-La. To the rallyists, Lhasa was like Shangri-La, and even at 14,000ft it was sheer bliss after the heady road from Golmud to enjoy a day's rest, a chance to wander around the Potala Palace, and explore the incredible monastery with red-robed monks spinning their prayer wheels in the centre of town.

Now we have to climb up to 16,000ft, and your next report will no doubt be full of the horrors and splendours of camping at the foot of Mount Everest, our last night's camping in Tibet before we leave this remarkable country.

If Philip Young and his Classic Rally Association team look anything but relaxed, it could be because we are truly entering the unknown, rumours abound that half a mountain has slid down in the recent monsoons and blocked the one track to Friendship Bridge and the border post to Nepal. Alas, the rains are late this year, and the 13 rivers we have to drive through, each wider than the Thames at Westminster Bridge, remain a daunting prospect.

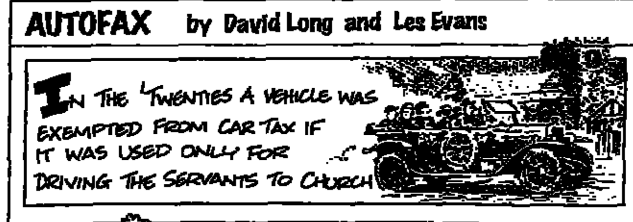
We were promised an adventure, and the fact that the team that has worked for four years on this epic does not itself know what is up the road ahead of us underlines just how adventurous this remarkable event has become. Talk of sticks of dynamite and headlights being wired onto the front of bulldozers for night shifts fills the chatter in the bar of the excellent Lhasa hotel.

Results? A Citroën 2CV, a Ford Anglia once rallied by Lord Steel, a Hillman Hunter and other humble classics are up with the leaders, who also include some 40-year-old American classics. Seven cars were still penalty-free when we reached Xigatsê and Team Rover looks good for the team prize. Hopefully I can obtain a car with sufficient back seat to keep up with them. Remarkably, only a dozen cars are walking wounded ... the hotels in Kathmandu certainly could be overflowing — that's if we get that far.

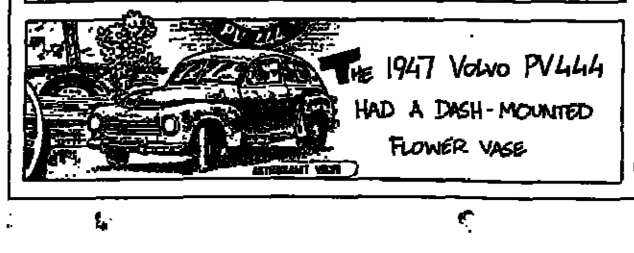
This was the trek that has made the rally the challenge that it was planned to be. And on the whole, most drivers and their cars have risen to the challenge.

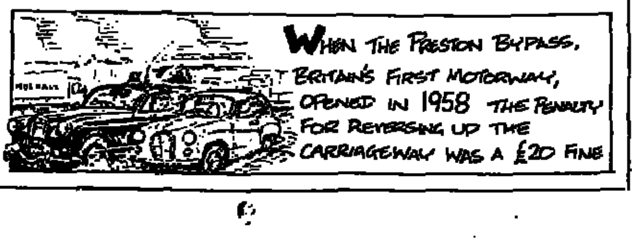
More next week

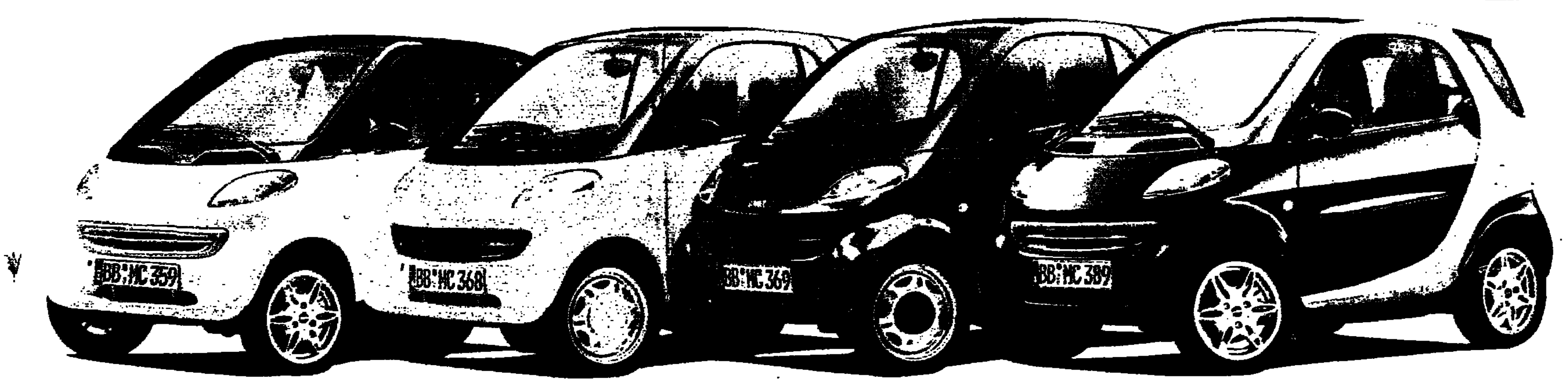
AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


IN THE 'TWENTIES A VEHICLE WAS EXEMPTED FROM CAR TAX IF IT WAS USED ONLY FOR DRIVING THE SERVANTS TO CHURCH

EUROPE'S LEADING RESTAURANT GUIDE STARTED LIFE AS A PROMOTIONAL GIMMICK FOR THE MICHELIN TYRE COMPANY
Pneu Michelin


THE 1947 VOLVO PV444 HAD A DASH-MOUNTED FLOWER VASE


WHEN THE PRESTON BYPASS, BRITAIN'S FIRST MOTORWAY, OPENED IN 1958 THE PENALTY FOR REVERSING UP THE CARRIAGEWAY WAS A £20 FINE



Future looks big for small

Kevin Eason on the carmakers' dash to build greener machines

I have seen the future ... and it is small but perfectly formed. The motor industry doesn't need the heavy hints of this week's Royal Commission on the Environment to know that the next decade will be crucial for the future of the car.

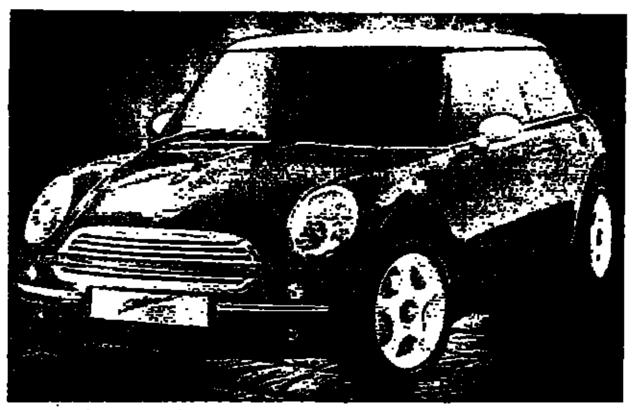
Never has pressure been greater to reform what we drive and the way we drive it, which is why carmakers are rushing to build minis that will become familiar on our city streets.

At the London Motor Show next month, all eyes will be on the new Mercedes A-class, which will revolutionise a sector so long defined by Britain's ubiquitous Mini.

Unfortunately, the new Mini — shown last week at the Frankfurt Show — will not be on Rover's stand, but the A-class will preview the sort of radical thinking being applied to small cars. Tall but short, the A-class is effectively a luxury car repackaged into a mini-sized box.

Mercedes says it is the kind of car ideal for cities or motorways, though the Germans have hedged their bets by investing in a partnership with Swatch, the innovative watch manufacturers, to make the Smart — little more than two seats in front of a frugal 600cc engine. Will it catch on? Difficult to say though it is a brave concept.

What is certain though is that the competition will be fierce and Britain will be involved, not just with the Mini but probably with new cars from Toyota, designed by a Briton and made here.



Frugal Mercedes Smart, top, Rover's new Mini, above

Toyota Funtime: radically styled conventional hatch

The tiny Toyota fun cars were designed by a team headed by John McLeod, aimed at finding younger city buyers and selling into southern European countries, such as Italy, where the proportion of small cars sold is much higher than here but Toyota sales are relatively weak.

The models would be versatile, available in distinctive styles though using the same basic chassis and engines of 1-litre and 1.2-litres. Funtime is a conventional hatchback with radical styling, 50 centimetres longer than a Mini but 13 centimetres shorter than Toyota's current smallest car on sale in Britain, the Starlet. Rear-seat passengers sit higher up than normal with the instrument binnacle centrally-mounted on the dashboard so they too can read the speedometer and other gauges.

The Funcargo is a station wagon version with seats that fold flat for a big load space, while the Funcoupé is a two-door leisure vehicle with a rear hatch that lifts off to create an open car. Toyota's plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire, is favourite to win the contract, though ten countries have bid for the investment, which could be worth £300 million to build 100,000 cars annually.

Toyota says: "We need a car in this growing area of the market in Europe and this car is a study of the possibilities that are in front of us. As to where it is built, a decision will be made next year on what is going to happen."

What all these small cars demonstrate is the recognition of the need for change and to be prepared for changes that could be forced on them soon by huge increases in petrol prices, tax increases on "gas guzzlers" and curbs on city driving as the British Government reacts to pressure from environmental groups.

Mini-sized cars already account for a third of all sales here, and there seems every reason to expect that this will increase substantially as buyers try to find cars that are more frugal to fuel and cheaper to tax and insure.

Yet there is no reason to despair that we will all end up running around in boring boxes. These pictures show that small cars need not be rattling underpowered, utility tin boxes: they can be well-designed — and fun.

WIN AN F1 NOSECONE IN OUR COMPUTER GAME COMPETITION

Jordan's nosecone is Formula One's most distinctive, and you could win one

The *Formula 1 '97* computer game brings the sport to life with throbbing authenticity. You can race as any driver in any of this season's cars, on 17 World Championship courses, *Tim Wapshott writes.*

THE GAME

The petrolhead classic, from Psygnosis, accommodates newcomers and well-seasoned addicts alike. In its easiest arcade mode, the gears are fully automatic so you really only have to accelerate and steer. Having mastered the basics, however, the vast Grand Prix mode beckons along with the challenge to become the next Jacques Villeneuve, Michael Schumacher or Damon Hill.

This is a makeover of a title first seen two years ago and all changes are for the better. Collisions look more realistic, and two players can compete simultaneously on the same console or computer with split-screen mode.

The selection of courses, has been increased to include the A1 Ring and Jerez. It is the accuracy of the course graphics that gives the title its enduring appeal among many real Formula One drivers — who use it not to improve their driving skills but as a revision tool for planning race strategies.

The title's playability lies in the difficulty settings. In addition to manual gears, the body damage and tyre-wear options will contribute to the need for many carefully timed pitstops. You can also race with variable weather settings. The biggest hazard remains that of trying to concentrate as you race with Murray Walker's unintentionally hilarious high-pitched commentaries.

As Michael, Jacques, Damon and the rest line up for the Austrian Grand Prix at the new A1 Ring tomorrow, you could be there with them. The track may be staging its first Grand Prix but if you want to drive it or any other of the 17 championship tracks you can already do so at home, courtesy of *Formula 1 '97*, the latest motor racing game from Psygnosis.

To mark the release of this game, its makers have given *CAR 97* an extraordinary piece of Formula One automobilia to offer as a prize — a nosecone from this year's Jordan car complete with the wonderful snake artwork, the most striking snout on the track. The winner and five runners up will also get copies of the game, which sells at £49.99.

Reviewed here by our games specialist, Tim Wapshott, footage from *Formula 1 '97* is used to preview circuits in ITV's grand prix coverage.

All you have to do to win one of these prizes is answer the following questions:

- **Who won this year's British Grand Prix?**
- **Who came second in this year's Hungarian Grand Prix?**

The winner will be drawn from all correct entries. Answers to: GP Game competition, *Car 97*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Closing date 30/9/97. Usual rules apply.

A TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Marlboro

Tomorrow's Austrian Grand Prix is the 14th race in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition. Heading our leaderboard after the Italian GP is A Bradley from Godalming, Surrey. His team, Slickhead 3, has 9,451 points after scoring 619 points at Monza.

TO ENTER If you have not yet entered a team into our £40,000 competition use the panel, below right, to make three selections from each of the four groups and call 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK).

THE PRIZES The manager with the best team score after the European Grand Prix on October 26, will win the first prize of £25,000 courtesy of our sponsor Marlboro World Championship team. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two runners-up. The manager with the most points in the Austrian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to next year's British Grand Prix at Silverstone. The runner-up gets a Sony PlayStation and CD-Rom game.

TRANSFERS You can change up to four selections before the Luxembourg Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon Thursday, September 25. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three drivers you select will be your prediction for the Luxembourg Grand Prix bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position on our leaderboard after today's Grand Prix on 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK) with your 10-digit PIN number. Lines currently carry all positions after the Italian Grand Prix and will be updated on Wednesday.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	9451
2	Aston O	L Ackland	9419
3	Coolsport	D A Coolican	9309
4	The Tigglers	—	9233
4	Cathy's Clowns	Mrs C Robinson	9233
4	Bezzolti Racing	A Scott	9233
4	F1 Erb	S Erhom	9233
8	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	9218
9	Gwilt F1	D G Gwilt	9194
10	Cartell Racing	S Dimetto	9191
10	No Hopers	P Zeinalabedini	9191
12	Scuderia Vitulli	Mr Vitulli	9190
13	Dragon Racing	R Davis	9167
13	Will And Nerve	A Mewes	9167
15	Smith-Astra	D R Smith	9161
16	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	9160
17	Toms Tankers	T Reynolds	9150
18	Freaks	F Retkowsky	9147
19	Formula Uno	P Tabone	9141
20	Rude F 1 Engineering	R Dodoo	9137
20	Midnight Ravers	C Newman	9137
20	Cyclops	R Bohee	9137
20	Hastings Hot Rods	P Clifford	9137
20	Goldfinch	S Goldfinch	9137
20	Panchella	D Pembroke	9137

MAKE 3 SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THESE FOUR GROUPS

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Italian GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS GROUP A					
01 D Hill	49	872	07 M Hakkinen	110	1002
02 M Schumacher	108	1576	08 D Coulthard	149	1047
03 J Villeneuve	105	1312	09 R Barrichello	89	623
04 E Irvine	102	1169	10 H-H Frentzen	118	1132
05 J Alesi	133	1436	11 J Herbert	43	1060
06 G Berger	100	1132	12 M Salo	31	1018

DRIVERS GROUP B					
13 J Trulli*	106	1414	19 G Fisichella	107	1223
14 J Verstappen	9	797	20 S Nakano	100	941
15 U Katayama	-2	739	21 G Morbidelli*	101	1136
16 P Diniz	4	627	22 T Marques*	94	828
17 R Rosset	0	0	23 J Magnussen	35	642
18 R Schumacher	48	879	24 V Sospiri	0	0

CONSTRUCTORS GROUP C			CONSTRUCTORS GROUP D		
25 Williams	24	175	31 Arrows	-20	-44
26 Ferrari	21	229	32 Sauber	5	140
27 McLaren	30	114	33 Tyrrell	-20	-14
28 Benetton	25	250	34 Minardi	3	32
29 Jordan	13	124	35 Stewart	4	-110
30 Prost	17	143	36 Lola	0	0

*Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. Tarso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

CHANGING TIMES

Roland Brown on the main attractions at the Milan motorcycle show

Agusta's great name returns

Among the many new models whose launch at this week's Milan show reflected motorcycling's current sales boom, two bikes stood out.

Romantics had eyes only for the MV Agusta F4 — a stunning and quintessentially Italian 750cc four that marks the return of one of motorcycling's most revered names. Pragmatists were captivated by Yamaha's YZF1000 R1, a more affordable four-cylinder missile whose vital statistics — power output 150bhp, weight just 177kg — suggest that the Honda FireBlade's days as superbike king are numbered.

Other firms, notably Suzuki, Ducati and Aprilia, launched exciting new bikes too. But what captured imaginations was the return of MV Agusta, the legendary Italian marque for which riders including Mike Hailwood and Giacomo Agostini won an unprecedented 17 consecutive 500cc world championships.

Nothing came close to the F4 for style, though really it's a badge-engineered Cagiva

Nothing came close to the F4 for sheer style, from its innovative headlamps to the four silencers peeking from beneath its sculpted tailpiece. The in-line four engine contains 16 radial valves, produces a claimed 126bhp, and sits in a frame that combines steel tubes and aluminium castings. Top speed will be about 165mph.

It was easy to forget that the revival of the MV Agusta name is essentially a clever piece of badge engineering. The old family-owned Agusta firm, which built exotic roadgoing superbikes as well as racers, hit financial trouble and ceased production in the late Seventies. In 1991 the name was bought by Cagiva: the MV name was perfect for Cagiva's four-cylinder superbike, which was then already under development. Only 200 numbered F4s will be built next spring, for sale at about £20,000. The owners of these limited-edition machines must agree neither to race nor to sell them: in return they will get a lifetime guarantee. Volume production is due to begin late next year, with the bike likely to cost about £15,000.

Yamaha is set to win the power stakes with its new R1

Like the F4, Yamaha's new R1 has a four-cylinder motor and twin-beam aluminium frame: its all-new 998cc 20-valve engine is fearsomely powerful and also compact, which allows the R1 to be short, for manoeuvrability. The Yamaha, which will cost around £9,500, also stands out with its aggressive styling.

That is more than can be said for Kawasaki's ZX-9R. The new 899cc, 145bhp ZX is more powerful, shorter and lighter than its predecessor, putting it close to the R1 on performance. But the new ZX-9R looks almost identical to the old one. Ditto Honda's revamped but visually little-changed CBR900RR Fire-Blade, which gains 2bhp (to 128bhp) and sheds 5kg.

Other newcomers included seven models from Suzuki headed by the TL1000R, a fresh version of the TL1000S V-twin, a restyled 900SS V-twin from Ducati, the RSV Mille from Aprilia and the Thunderbird Sport, an 83bhp triple from Triumph.

AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS AT A GLANCE

IF YOU CANNOT FIND THE VEHICLE YOU DESIRE CONTACT YOUR AUTHORISED DEALER LISTED BELOW

Alfa Romeo

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It's a dog, but someone wants it

Russell Hayes finds there is a market for motoring's lemons

Roger Bradford is the only Citroën main dealer to touch the CX. Despite its habit of falling apart, he says, "It has the beginnings of a cult car, the last big Citroën to have style."

CARS WITH BAD REPUTATIONS

- Lada's Riva does have its good points — it is as tough as old boots, cheap to run, and has enough space to accommodate a large *Russian grandmother*. It is, however, like old boots to drive, and the safety equipment runs only to seatbelts. The last P-reg Riva 1500 is still quoted at around £3,000 in price guides, but you *would get little more* than your bus fare home if you tried to trade in a ten-year-old model.
- Daimler's DS420 limousine is miles cheaper than a Rolls-Royce, but posher than a stretched Ford. The engine goes on for ever, and there's miles of space inside. It looks *rather funereal*, however, especially if painted black, and is prone to rusting. *Depending* on extras, age and mileage, they will fetch from £1,500 to £40,000.
- The Citroen CX has lots of space, a swishy ride and super-light *steering. It looks elegant*, and the turbo-diesels are fast. But they all throw a fit if not well maintained. Build quality is non-existent, the last 1990 diesel estates are listed at £4,000, the rest, from £300 upwards.

Do not despair. Even if you think your car is the biggest white elephant on the road, somebody somewhere has a soft spot for it. There are plenty of dealers who make a living out of *spotting unloved cars and* matching them with their ideal partners.

Ladas? *Jamaicans* love them. There are loyal owners here, of course, but sales had become a trickle when the UK importers gave up in July after trouble meeting new emissions laws. There are hundreds of the right-angled Riva still chuntering around and if they are sold to Alan Rochford of Rochfords Exporters in Brixton, South London they are bound for a sunny retirement, although potentially only as spare parts.

"Not many know about the *Jamaican connection*," he says. "About five years ago a guy wanted to ship ten back there and we asked if he wanted any more." So now Alan buys a couple of Ladas a day and sends them up to Hull. "It is a real big thing in Jamaica and Cuba. The Russians had no money to buy aluminium ore so they gave *them cars instead*."

Rochfords will ship anything there's a market for. *Outside in the yard*, Lada Rivas and Samaras sit stacked against Toyota vans. In the recent past, it was Latvia that couldn't get enough. "It was unbelievable. We used to have Latvians camping overnight in the yard." Now, thanks to a *huge* import tax, Latvian demand is dwindling. Jamaicans, too, are getting a taste for air-conditioned Toyotas. Nobody, it seems, is immune to creature comforts.

Ladas may be unloved in Britain, but Jamaica buys our cast-offs and Lithuanians were camping out for them

People may laugh at Ladas but try to sell them an old Citroën CX and they run away screaming. The 1974 CX was meant to be less complicated than the DS but it still retained hydro-pneumatic suspension, power brakes and the exotic-sounding Varipower steering. They were lovely to look at, but rapidly fell to bits.

"They had a terrible name, but those who like them wouldn't drive anything else," says Roger Bradford of the CX Centre in St Ives, Cambridgeshire. He's the only Citroën *main dealer that will touch the* CX and he runs the Centre alongside the new car showroom. "We reasoned there was a future in the CX. It has the beginnings of a cult car, the last big Citroën to have style. Driving a CX is an incredibly sensual experience."

Roger's restored CXs sell to a select few at prices from £3,000 to £7,500 for one of the last turbo-diesels. "Lots and lots goes wrong," Roger admits. "We only buy from trade contacts and new Citroën dealers who know nothing about *them and just panic*."

Selling around 50 cars a year, the CX Centre needs the back-up of nice *uncomplicated* Saxos and ZXs but Roger reckons the CX will have its day: "Most of my customers are London based and very style conscious. Our buyers don't want a BMW because it's a box and a Jag is a spiv's car in their eyes."

But we Brits are an ungrateful lot. In 1992, our last bespoke Daimler limousine whispered off to its grave and we didn't notice. Launched at £4,424 in 1968 when a Mini cost £635, the Daimler became the car for embassies, funeral *directors and wedding chauffeurs*. In business since 1947, Wilcox & Co Limousines of *Chalfont St Giles has seen it* come and go along with its ancestor, the Daimler Majestic. "Anyone who wanted a stretch limo or a hearse bought one of these," says Paul Wilcox, who runs the business with brother Peter. "We once found we'd supplied one to Howard Hughes."

The Daimler was the last true purpose-build limo. Its *Jaguar engine had a lower* compression ratio, which enabled it to produce more torque for those urban take-offs and made for a long life. It also meant it could burn low-grade fuel. "It could almost run on rubbish," says Paul. Until the advent of the stretched Ford Granada in the 1970s, all was well. "There was *a funeral director, Fred Payne*, in West London who bought 12 Fords. He saved around £2,000 a car, and that was an awful lot then."

Suddenly the Daimler looked expensive and was suffering from the dodgy build quality that plagued its owners British *Leyland. Sales languished un*til towards the end of its life, price cuts of around £1,500 revived interest, but as a hand-built car that had never seen a catalytic converter it was doomed.

So how about a used buy? If a car that was always kept looking shiny seems like a good buy, be warned. Wilcox says that while many Daimlers were shiny outside, the owners never gave them so *much as an oil change and* they quietly rusted away.

Today, friends of the old girl *are more likely to be foreign* than local. "It was probably the most elegant of limousines but we've got used to it," Paul observes. "More foreign people view them as classics, nothing looks like a 420."

CX's style appeals to trend-setters, and offers spacious interior. Technology lets the car down badly, however

PARADE OF THE POOREST: *CAR 97* READERS NOMINATE THEIR WORST CARS IN THE WORLD

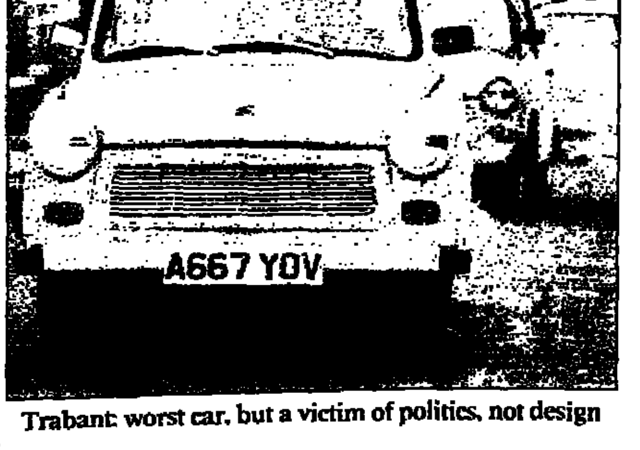
Leyland puts Britain at the top of the all-time scrapheap

It was reputed to be the worst car in history, but last month *CAR 97* marked the 40th anniversary of the Ford Edsel by pointing out some of its saving graces.

Then we asked our readers to *nominate* their own candidates for the dubious title of world's worst car.

While many of you have individual pet hates, the unfortunate *car most* mentioned as the worst ever was the Austin Allegro (see letter, right). Colin Anstey of Lee, South-East London, wrote: "The awful All-aggro, as it was unkindly nicknamed, hardly bears comparison with such horrors as East Germany's *Trabant* . . .

"No, what makes the Allegro the world's worst car is how spectacularly inferior it was to the car it replaced, BMC's well-beloved *ten-year* best-selling 1100/1300 range. Where the 1100 was crisply styled by Pininfarina, the Allegra drew inspiration from the Leyland *canteen cook's dumplings*."



Trabant: worst car, but a victim of politics, not design

Mark de Angeli of Edenbridge, Kent, says, "The world's worst car is either the Austin Princess *or the Allegro*. Which one you hate more is simply a matter of taste." First, though, he says that, "if the criterion is 'should have *known better*' then the Aston Martin Lagonda is in with a rather loud shout. Watching it try to cope with a corner *while* its driver is doing the same with the dashboard makes one weep for the memory of its glorious stablemates."

Mr de Angeli also picks out the Trabant, saying, "It *is* the worst car ever made . . . but does it really deserve the contempt inherent in this award? The Trabant was the *product of a system* congenitally incapable of making a decent motor and so is really *more underdog than dog*."

British Leyland's Princess comes in for a hammering from Norman Milne of Kinghorn, Fife, in Scotland. The Princess, later marketed as the Ambassador "was nothing but trouble, cost a fortune *in running costs and depreciation* and exuded poor quality — with the result that very few remain on the roads today", he writes.

Mr Milne praises the car's *spaciousness but* says: "One colleague who bought three new ones for his firm told me that all had cost so much to run and put right that they alone had nearly bankrupted his company. Even when visiting scrapyards, I have never seen one with even 100,000 miles on the clock.

David Stuckey of Ormskirk, *Lancashire, nominates* the 1950s Triumph Mayflower as the worst car yet. "While it may have been plain sailing for the Pilgrims, for us a Mayflower voyage *meant* towels and lots of patience as water seeped through the quarter light, around the windscreen and in the boot; the heater was very hit and miss (the controls and dials were ivory white, like piano keys, which did not add to its street-cred) and the engine was *woefully under-powered to* propel the car at any respectable speed up even the simplest hill."

Princess, Ambassador: different names, same old crock

A posthumous award is *recommended by* Nic Orchard of Deal, Kent, for the Simca 1100. "Younger readers may look blank as few examples have survived long enough to earn the cult or classic status conferred on some of the industry's best — and worst — curiosities.

"My 1975 Simca deserves your title: a Gallic import . . . devoid of the style that has redeemed many French cars, *the Simca was hard to love* even though it was mine. Tinny in every sense. Hours were spent cursing the thing."

Looking back in anger is George Mechan of Highbridge, Somerset, who writes: "To those of us who were seeking a cheap used car in the Thirties, the Trojan was the one to avoid unless one required solid tyres and wheels, two speed, chain drive, a hand-start two-stroke engine and the ugliest open four-seat *body ever*."

Harry Purchase's girlfriend persuaded him to sell a Royal Enfield *motorcycle in the early 1950s* and buy the car that gets his nomination for the world's worst — the Bond Mini.

Mr Purchase of Penton Hook, Surrey, remembers "a seriously deficient braking system, a canvas hood which leaked at every joint, a ground clearance that ensured water poured in through the foot pedal holes in the floor."

The car ended up dumping him and his girlfriend in a gutter after a rear wheel collapsed and axle sheared.

Suitably naff prizes will soon be sent to the authors of all letters quoted

ALL-AGGRO

Sir,
The world's worst car must be the Austin Allegro (a name that was in danger of transgressing the Trade Descriptions Act).

When I was at school in the 1970s, a popular rumour was that few, if *any, Allegros finished* a journey with all four wheels attached.

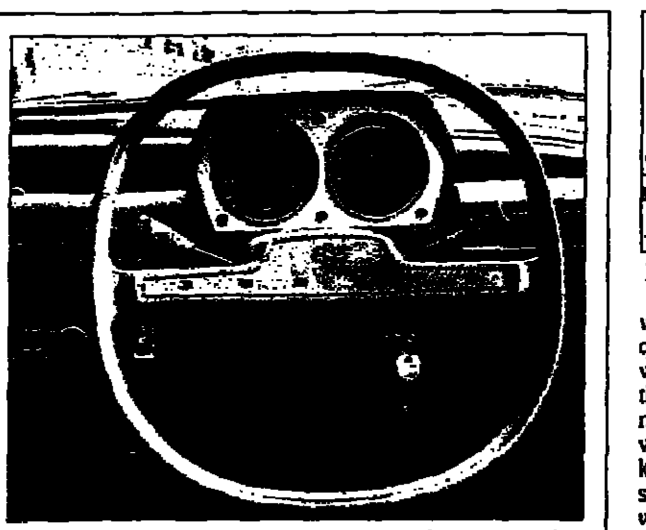
I always attributed these rumours to childish *imagination* — until I met a friend who had succumbed to poverty and invested in an umpteenth-hand model.

Driving down a hill one day a wheel loosened, bounded ahead of him and eventually crashed through the window of a butcher's shop.

I would also like to mention the Lada. A *woman wrote to a* motoring magazine hoping to put the record straight. Driving along the *motorway her Lada* went out of control and performed enough aerobatics to make Nadia Comaneci look rather *second-rate*.

When the car came to a stop she was "completely unscathed". *Strangely, this* behaviour did not appear to be a cause for concern.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD CARR,
Peterlee, Co Durham.



Checking the Allegro's tyres meant counting the wheels

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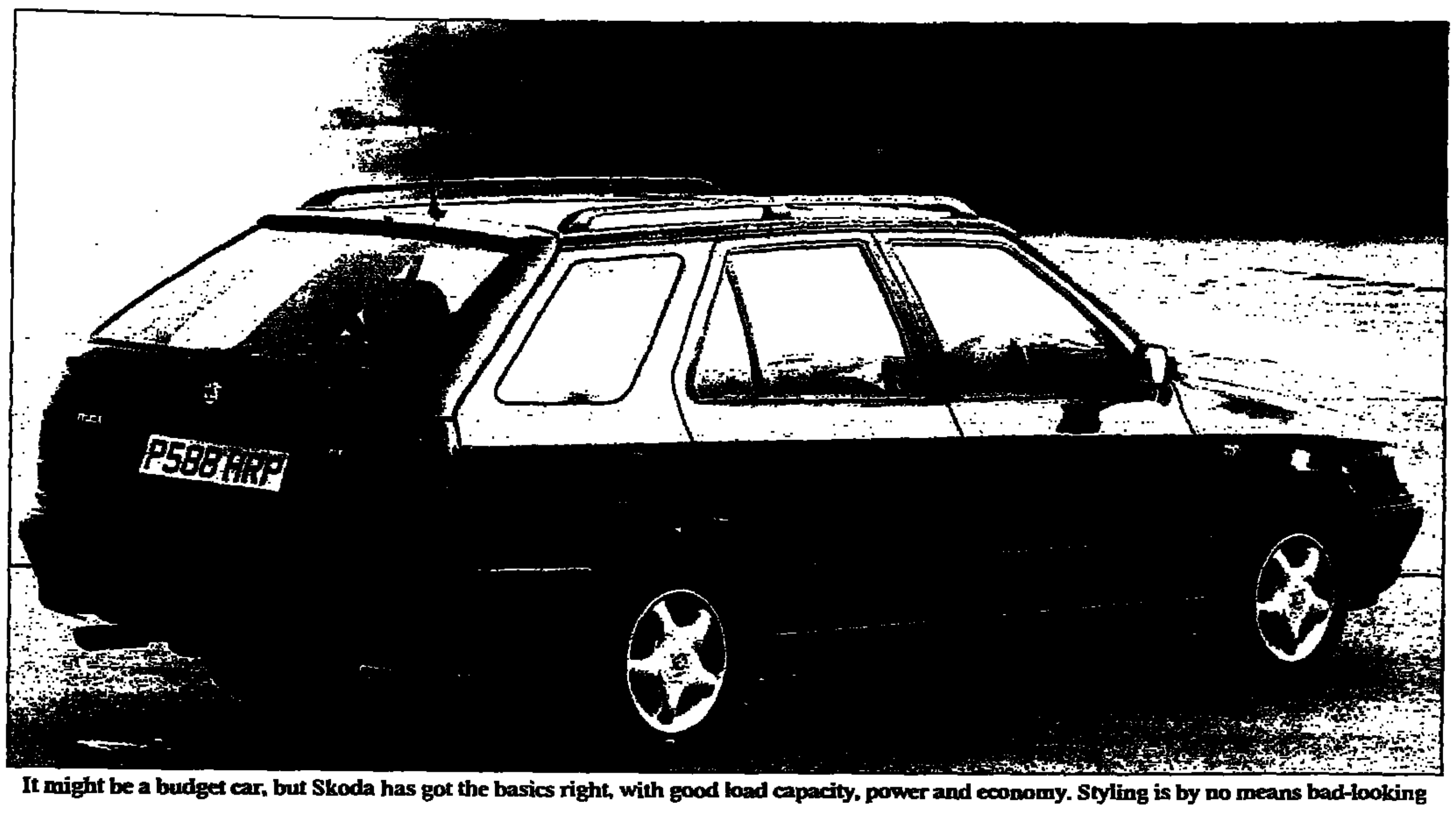
CARMART: YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

Skoda's cheap, but no joke

The Felicia is not flash, but it works in the real motoring world, says **Alan Copps**


It might be a budget car, but Skoda has got the basics right, with good load capacity, power and economy. Styling is by no means bad-looking

There was a time not long ago when the term "budget car" was pejorative. It meant a cheaply produced, crudely finished car that relied on out-of-date technology to provide motoring at a subsistence level. Safety and reliability were barely mentioned in this context and performance was strictly secondary to the fact that there was a wheel at each corner. As for warranties, this was uncharted territory.

But I've just been driving the vehicle that was voted "Best Budget Car" for the past two years running in the sought-after awards from *What Car?* magazine. Nothing could prove so convincingly how the motoring landscape has changed in the past decade.

Forget for a *moment* supercars, prestige marques and the catch-all word "image" that the marketing men bandy around so freely in an *attempt to convince car buyers* that "you are what you drive". Brace yourself to endure a few second-rate jokes from friends who haven't quite caught up with the real world and then consider the Skoda Felicia Estate.

If what you want is a decent-sized family car costing under £10,000 with the capacity to seat four adults in comfort or carry heavy loads *on occasion* and with an engine that doesn't sound as if it's busting a gut every time the gradient exceeds one *in a hundred, it is well worth* considering.

While you're thinking about it, remember that this vehicle comes with a three-year un*limited mileage warranty, in*cluding full AA roadside cover, so if your excursion into budget territory proves a mistake at least you won't have to *pick up the bill.*

In fact the Felicia range begins right down at £5,999 for a 1.3L hatchback. But because I was in the throes of *moving house at the time,* I was *grateful* to try the estate version in GLi form, with a 1.9-litre diesel engine. It was the first time I had been in a Skoda since the bad old days *and the difference was* immediately apparent.

The vital ingredient in Skoda's change of fortunes is, of course, Volkswagen which now owns the Czech carmaker, and this 64bhp Volkswagen diesel engine is a new feature of the range for this year. What it provides is useful flexibility with outstanding economy. In a test for the specialist *Diesel Car* magazine, admittedly driven by an economy expert, a hatchback model with this engine averaged *more than 84mpg on a 702*-mile journey from the company's British headquarters in Milton Keynes to the factory where it was built, in Mladá *Boleslav, at an average of* 50mph.

'It is as solid as something built to German standards'

I cannot claim to have challenged that record, but with my mind very much on *moving and carrying varying* loads of children, books and odd bits of furniture along roads that varied from motorways to winding lanes at *speeds which were not always* calculated to be the most economical, I quite suddenly *became aware that I had* covered more than 400 miles before I needed to stop and refill the 9.2-gallon tank.

This is not the perfect car by *any means. The engine is* surprisingly refined for a diesel and can be nippy if driven with a bit of enthusiasm, but it's not quite a match for the *unit of the same size produced* by the Citroën/Peugeot group. The car's interior, with cloth upholstery and ribbed carpets, is plain and functional rather than stylish, but it does include a radio that is mercifully simple to use, an improvement on some I've encountered in cars of twice the price.

The ride is comfortable and the suspension coped well with the rural rides that I subjected it to. The estate gives bags of room for a car of its class and loading is easy.

In GLi form, the estate comes with power steering, central locking, a *sunroof*, split/fold rear seats and roof rails all as standard. A driver's airbag is included in the standard equipment list on *everything except the most* basic model and an immobiliser is standard throughout the range.

The Skoda is a very simple *car in many ways but it feels* as solid as you would expect of something built to Volkswagen standards and, although it is hardly a key factor *in this price range, the vehi*cle's styling is not at all bad-looking.

Skoda is steadily consolidating its reputation for offering *value for money, and that is* reflected in sales up by more than 50 per cent this year.

Forget the "budget" tag. This is a "real world" car with *an awful lot going for it.*

FELICIA GLI

Engine: Four-cylinder, 1.9-litre diesel producing 64bhp at 4,300rpm.
Transmission: Five-speed manual.
Performance: Top speed 97mph: 0-62mph in 17.5 secs.
Economy: Urban 37.4mpg; extra-urban 61.4mpg; combined 42.1mpg.
Equipment: power-assisted steering, tilt/slide sunroof, roof rails, central locking, engine immobiliser, *height-adjustable* seat belts, split/fold removeable rear seats, remote tailgate release.
Price: £9,399.

Good news from the humble hatchbacks

FORECOURT

■ THE HUMBLE Ford Fiesta and Vauxhall Astra might stir little passion, but have long been among Britain's best selling cars, and represent great value second-hand, *writes Vaughan Freeman.*

The newest incarnation of the Fiesta, thanks to a freshening of its styling, but especially because of its highly popular 1.25-litre engine, does its job very well, and its revamped handling has kept it abreast of the compe*tition, reports CAP Black Book.*

The LX Fiesta's equipment makes it particularly sought after, especially if *fitted with power-assisted* steering. Even small cars benefit from this, especially for town driving. When squeezing into tight parking spaces, *those accustomed to driving* without power steering will be amazed at how much difference it can make.

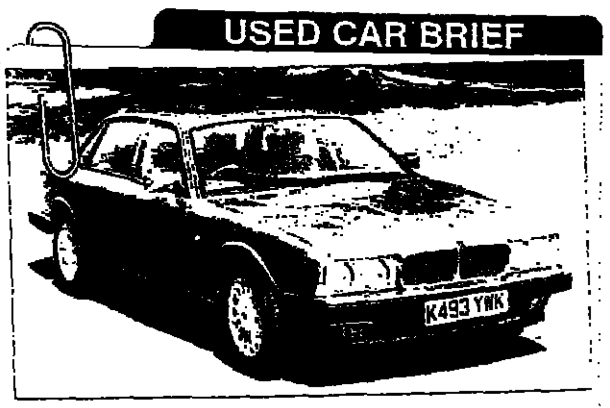
The Ghia and Ghia X Fiesta *give extraordinary levels of* comfort and equipment for such a small car. Expect to pay £6,250 for a 1996 N-registered Ford Fiesta 1.25 LX three-door *hatchback with 30,000 miles* on the clock. This month the highly respected *What Car?* motoring consumer magazine rated the 1.25-litre Fiesta as the "finest driving supermini you can buy" and named it best used supermini. The magazine also lavished praise on *the 1.4-litre LS* Vauxhall Astra, naming it best small family used car.

The small Astra, *reports CAP,* is a firm favourite, and the range benefits from having something for everybody, with four door *saloon, hatchback and estate* versions.

The LS-badged car remains the most popular, especially models with the V-shaped *grille and, as with the Fiesta,* power steering. Although the present Astra is due for replacement, the used model still offers sound value-for-*money motoring.*

Expect to pay around £4,150 for a 1994 M-reg Astra 1.4-litre Merit three-door hatchback with power steering and *60,000 miles on the clock.*

USED CAR BRIEF



JAGUAR XJ6 (1986-1994)
Not as curvily attractive as current Jaguars, the old-shape XJ6 *nevertheless* offers luxury and style at bargain prices. Launched in 1986, the six cylinder *petrol engines* range from 2.9 to 4-litre units, and there are 5.3 and 6-litre V12s also. Matched to five-speed manual or four-speed auto, the car was revised in 1995 and has just been replaced by the new V8 saloons.

✓ **GOOD NEWS:** All Jaguars *come with* creature comforts such as power steering, central locking and electric windows. The car is a joy to drive, anti-lock brakes are standard and a well-maintained one should last long enough to become an heirloom.

⊘ **BAD NEWS:** *Poor handling* can hint at deep-rooted problems with rear suspension. Check that the huge array of electronic toys such as the dashboard computer all work, and that electric seat controls operate properly. Damp carpets in the boot could indicate a leak.

LOOK FOR: The most recent cars which were *fitted* with leather trim, remote central locking and driver *airbag as standard. Jaguars bought* privately can be incredibly cheap but pay more for dealer cars with a full service history. Like top-range Mercedes and BMWs, the Jaguar needs leather seats, air conditioning and automatic transmission to maximise its potential.

AVOID: The 2.9-litre engine is really too *feeble* to move such a heavy car smoothly and with *ease. The 3.2-litre which replaced it* from 1989 is much better. Ask if the car has been garaged otherwise paintwork may have suffered in the elements.

△ **SAFETY:** Rated the safest car on Britain's roads according to police and Government crash statistics, *largely* due to car's impressive size and weight, but also to safety-conscious engineering and *airbags.*

☂ **INSURANCE:** Cover from *AA insurance (Tel 0800 444777)* on a 1994 Jaguar XJ6 3.2-litre *costs a 55-year-old professional* male or female with full no claims living in Winchester £268 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male with one year no-claims living in south London pays £1,693 and a similar female £1,398.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices supplied by *Glassmatix 01932 823823*) Full exhaust system £815; catalytic converter *£502; rear damper £92; front brake* pads (axle set) £58; radiator £389; starter motor (exchange) £348; alternator £262.

£ **PRICE RANGE:** Expect to pay around £3,000 for an early (1986) *2.9-litre car,* and £5,000 for a 1989 F-reg 2.9 litre automatic, £10,000 *for a 1991 J-reg 3.2-litre auto,* £5,700 for a 1989 F-reg 3.6-litre auto, £19,000 for a 1993 K-reg *4-litre auto, and £20,000 for a* 1993 L-reg 6-litre V12.

OVERALL: Cheap considering what you get for your money. But worth spending more initially to avoid expensive repairs later. Space *for rear seat passengers is limited compared to other limousines* and the boot seems small. Nevertheless, a car that offers extraordinary levels of comfort and driving pleasure.

Car sales worth a virtual look

■ BUYING a new car? Forget about that tradition*al test run around the block* to get a feel of the steering and suspension, *writes Stuart Birch.* You will be able to do it all in the showroom, *thanks* to sophisticated virtual reality systems.

And if the car does not steer or ride quite how you would like, changes can be *made while you are* in the virtual world, you can "drive" it again and again until you are happy. Special gloves will enable you to check feel — or "tactility" as the automotive designers would have it — of the *seats and switches.*

It sounds great, *but is this just another piece of* whimsical technology that is decades away? "Not at *all," says Alec Williams,* UK Customer Manager for Delphi Automotive Systems. "Lengthening options lists mean that demonstrator vehicles will be less and less representative of what customers are *really buying. Virtual* reality can bridge the gap between the car they see in a showroom and what they really want."

Ford has also said it is thinking along similar lines, with customers eventually being able to take a virtual-reality test drive in *its products. It has demon*strated the basis of such a system at motor shows. But Delphi announced at the Frankfurt motor show that it is developing technology that will allow another *significant step to be taken:* "Wearing a 3-D headset and tactile gloves will put you 'in' the car of your choice. When you 'drive' it, seats mounted on hydraulic actuators will bring the sensation of movement *from the road realistically* to your bottom.

If you want sporty suspension, you will even be able to decide how firm it should be. And if, after the car is delivered, you decide you have got it wrong, it will be back into the virtual reality simulator to specify any changes.

The same will go for electric powered steering; electronic controls will make it possible to deter*mine just how much* effort you put into it.

DELPHI BELIEVES such a system could be in showrooms within ten years — possibly less.

Designers and engineers *are already creating cars* — such as the new Ford Puma — without leaving their computer terminals, and Delphi says that the customer will share that technology in the showroom.

Trim could also be *personalised. Delphi has* what it calls a "3-D Knitting Process", which allows seat and door trims to be created to a customer's personal choice. Once the *final* mechanical and aesthetic choice is made, the information could be put on computer and downloaded *to the factory together with* the vehicle order.

"Showroom virtual reality will happen and will become increasingly sophisticated," says Williams. "It is just a matter of *time* before what is being done in the motor manufacturers' laboratories today is transferred to the showroom. That is the reality."

SPARE PARTS

■ IT MAY sound like a tall story, but 6ft 8in John Breading has chosen a Ford Ka — one of the smaller cars around — *to carry him* into retirement, *writes Eve-Ann Prentice.*

Mr Breading drove 18,000 miles a year in large saloons *before retiring from* his job as a wholesale meat company regional manager looking after 20 depots in England and Wales.

After deciding to look for something cheaper to run, he tried several makes and models before his son, also called John and also more *than 6ft tall,* urged him to try the diminutive Ka.

"There is plenty of spare headroom and my son even finds the rear seating pos*ition comfortable,"* says Mr Breading, who lives in Exeter, of his Ka2. "I never thought I would find a small car that could offer the same level of comfort as large cars," he adds.

"There is *nothing about* the Ka I don't like, it is fun to drive, very economical and pleasant to drive on longer journeys."

Breading and small Ka

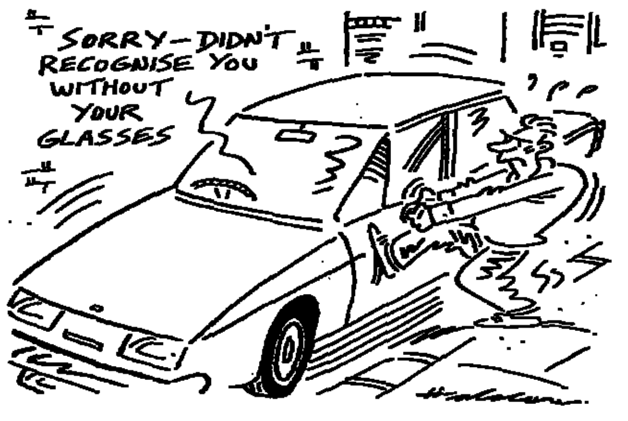
■ THE TYRRELL Formula One team has joined with its sponsor, *European Aviation, to* build a new state-of-the-art wind tunnel.

Tyrrell, which has designed the tunnel, will be able to test grand prix car *models* up to half scale, the maximum size possible with current tehnology. The tunnel, to be based at Bournemouth Airport, *will also be* used by European Aviation to test noise abatement equipment. All aircraft face *stringent new* European noise regulations.

Tyrrell's engineering chief, Dr Harvey Postlethwaite, *said:* "The ability to test year-round at half-scale in our own wind tunnel will give Tyrrell engineers a *facility to* complement their innovative skills. The development of aerodynamics by the use of *scale models* has become increasingly sophisticated in recent years."

New locks tell friend from foe

Stuart Birch on the keyless car that knows how you like to drive


SORRY—DIDN'T RECOGNISE YOU WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES

Your car is about to greet you like a friend. It *won't be quite* as pleased to see you as the dog, but advanced technology systems will recognise you — or members of your family — as you approach, and the door will unlock with no need to push remote control buttons.

One system from Delphi Automotive unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show is called the Comfort Identification Device (CID) or keyless *entry, which uses a transmit*ter embedded in a plastic card in your wallet. A few yards from the car, a receiver in a door mirror recognises its signal and the driver's door unlocks.

Another technique, also revealed in Germany this week, has been developed by TRW in *America* and is able to recognise your fingerprint. Just touch a pad on the car and the system, called Truetouch, will recognise a unique fingerprint *match in less than one* second.

Truetouch will remember the fingerprints of other people authorised to enter the vehicle. A fingertip could also be placed on a key fob as a car is approached and its door will *unlock.*

Insurance companies are reported to be interested in Truetouch, not just because it should reduce the likelihood of theft but because the system could be programmed to recognise someone with speeding or serious traffic convictions and restrict the top speed of the car. It might also be useful *if the family car is* borrowed by teenage sons or daughters.

Both the Delphi and TRW systems will allow what the Americans term "vehicle *personalisation". It means* that once the car recognises which family member is about to drive it, pre-programmed seat and mirror adjustments are made.

Delphi's system automatically locks the car as a driver walks away and, like TRW's technology, there will be no need for mechanical locks or keys.

Although cars now incorporate an enormous amount of electronic technology, there is far more to come. Delphi has also detailed its Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). *This combines on-board* electronic systems for navigation with sophisticated telecommunications using satellites.

If a car is involved in a serious accident, a panic button could be pushed to call the emergency services. An automatic message would be transmitted to a service centre by a *satellite tracking system* and the car would be located immediately. If the accident was serious enough to deploy an airbag, the signal would be transmitted automatically. The service centre would then *not only alert police and* ambulance but signal the driver's blood group.

While keyless Entry should be an effective theft deterrent, if an attempt was made to take *the car, the ITS would dial* 999. But amid all this technology, we may see the return of a piece of equipment all but forgotten today: the starter *button. The advent of keyless* entry would make an ignition key an anachronism.

It is possible that an electronic plug similar to that *already pioneered* by Mercedes-Benz for some models could be supplied to start the car, or voice recognition could enable a driver simply to tell the engine to start — although for safety reasons *that looks doubtful at present.*

More likely is that a simple starter button will be back on the dashboard, just like we used to have in the good old days when motoring was *still* an adventure.

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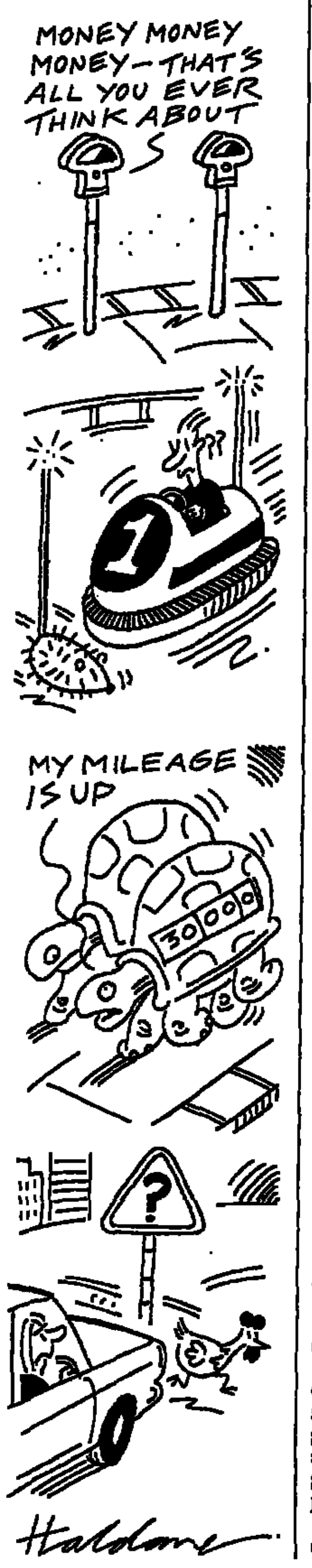
MONEY MONEY MONEY—THAT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK ABOUT
1
MY MILEAGE IS UP
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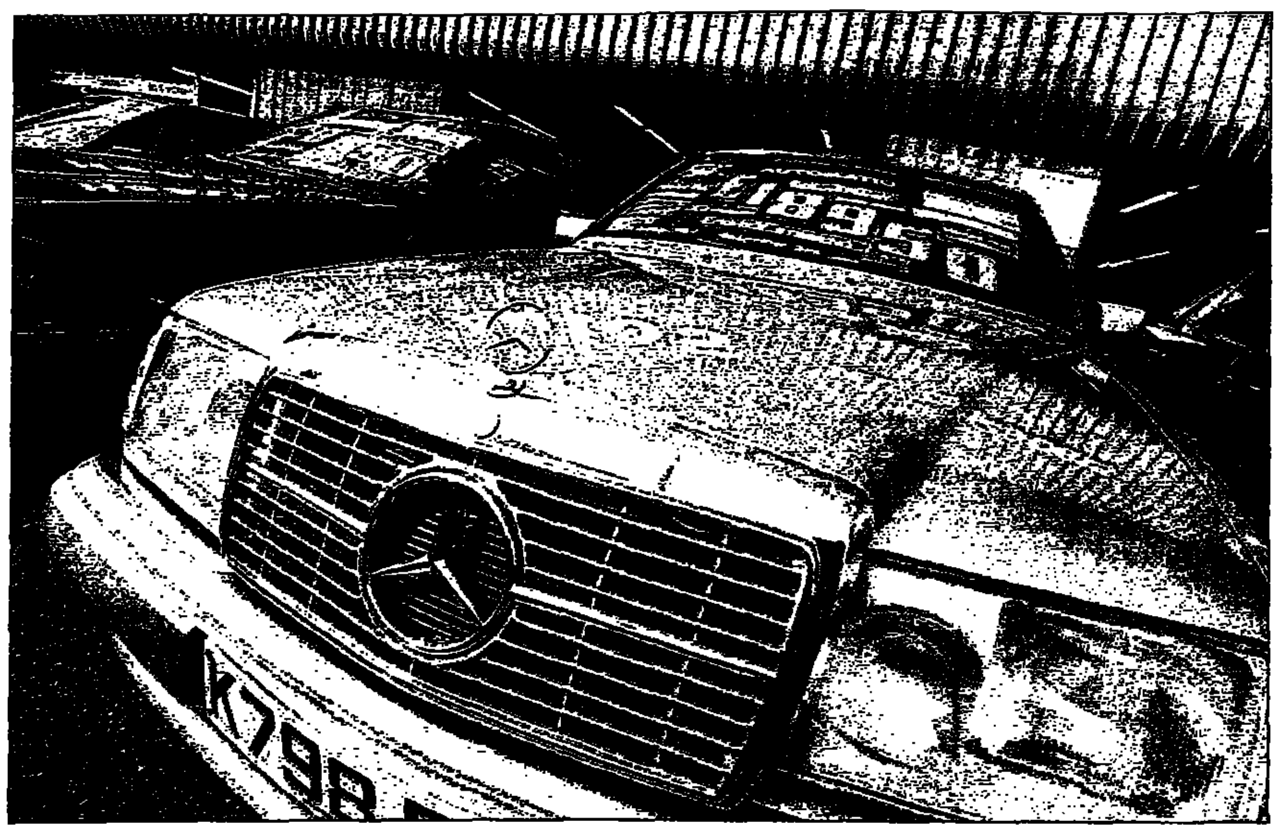
Baddest attack of the Benz

Jess McAree bridles at East London's wild sacrilege of Mercedes's finest motors


Considerably large grille badge, lowered suspension, dark windows and alloy wheels make for no-subtlety zone

Vulgarity and Mercedes-Benz: a pairing about as complementary as black and white, or chalk and cheese. If Reliant is Peckham High Street and Ford is Tooting Bec, then Stuttgart's most famous export is definitely Knightsbridge.

Unless, of course, it's from Bethnal Green. Here on a wide avenue in the heart of London's East End is a car lot where the hallowed products of Mercedes-Benz are subjected to cheerful blasphemy. For Rude Mercs specialises in the unthinkable business of customising Mercedes cars.

This does not mean the genteel upholstery jobs and coy, tasteful alloy wheels of upmarket add-ons like Mercedes' own AMG. At Rude Mercs they believe in the kind of rip-roaring taste bypass that would make drug dealers wring their hands in despair.

"Oh, we do anything," confirms John, one of the sales assistants. "You want lowered suspension, alloy wheels, big spoilers, blacked-out windows, no problem. We'll do anything you want to a Mercedes. That's why they call us rude."

The truth of this is only too apparent in reception. Under a sign on the wall proclaiming the company's sponsorship of the Tottenham kick boxing champions, the panoply of Rude Mercs wares is on display, from the relatively sober carbon fibre, "soft feel" gearknob to outrageous dish-alloy wheels and gold-plated grilles with enormous three-pointed stars.

There's even a section dedicated to Mercedes-themed novelty number plates. John points to a plate with the imaginative legend, RUDIE. "Tried to flog that one to the footballer Ruud Gullit, but he wouldn't go for it."

Most of the custom kits are made to order in the UK with prices around half that charged by AMG. A typical customer will spend about £1,000 having his suspension lowered and alloy wheels fitted. His car is usually an oldish 190E. "They fit up real nice," says John. "The newer ones never look so good." Ambitious customers go for full interior leather upholstery and walnut-effect panelling, with maybe a custom paint job and exotic spoilers thrown in for good measure. What they won't get, however, is any performance engineering.

"You just can't ever please people with all that business," explains John's colleague Les, "You can make people's cars look good, but then they wonder why a 2-litre automatic 190E won't go fast. Whatever you do to them, you can never make them go as quick as the customer wants.

"Having said that," he adds brightly, "we never say never. If the customer was having some bodywork done too, well, we might consider a few minor adjustments . . ."

The company's most exotic project, a yellow and green 190 fitted out with massive rear spoiler, blacked-out windows, pounding bass stereo and 2.3-litre 16-valve engine, has just been sold to Birmingham City footballer Peter Ndlovu for £20,000. Several of the ruder examples, Les assures me, have been bought by rap stars and footballers "who shall remain nameless".

More run-of-the-mill cars can be found on the forecourt, where you can pay as little as £7,950 for a white F-registered 190E with lowered suspension and an SL-style grille. If you've got cash to burn, try the red M-reg E320 with walnut panelling, the ubiquitous lowered suspension and fancy exhaust. How much? £21,950 — cash only — to you.

So, the big question: is there anything they *won't* do at Rude Mercs? For instance, could they turn my modest old 190E into a convertible? And how about some nice ultraviolet underlighting?

"Oh yes, we've done the roofs," says Les. "You just cut them off along the mouldings and fit a vinyl soft top. Mind, it's not like a real convertible, but it's the next best thing. Haven't ever done the underlighting, though. It Sounds a bit way out. We have enough problems from Hackney council with lowered suspension and speed humps. We lower 'em, then put 'em back up again when the customer decides they're too low. Sort of repeat business. Great, eh?"

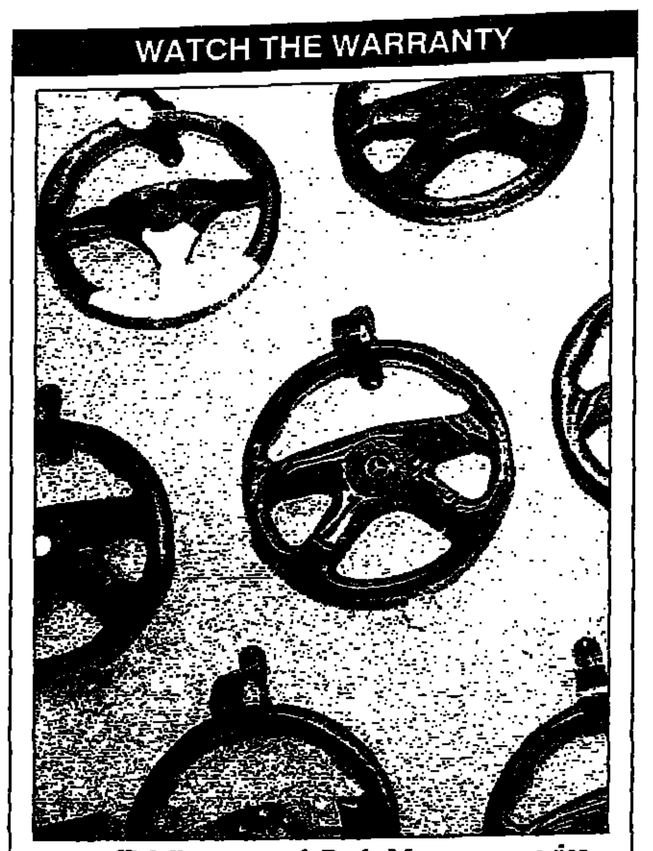
It's certainly the kind of business that Mercedes-Benz would gladly pay good money to see off, but Les is undeterred. In fact, he's puzzled by what the company generally sees as the German car giant's curious snobbery. Just because it's Rude doesn't mean it's not a Merc.

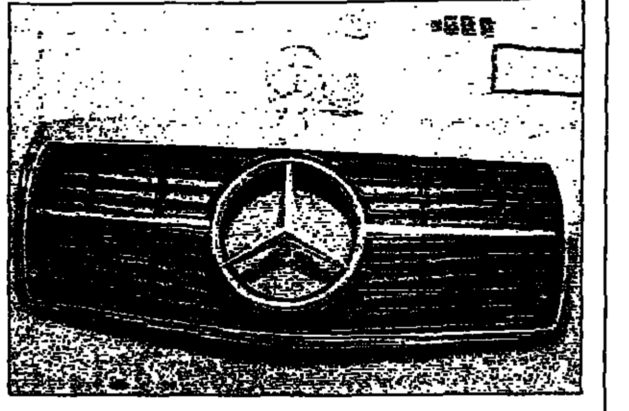
"Mercedes want nothing to do with us, which is stupid because we bring them loads of new business," says Les. "There are loads of people who would never have considered driving a Merc until they saw one of ours."

"I mean, who'd have a new Ford when you can have a three-year old Merc. Got a bit of class, hasn't it?"

Rude Mercs: 0171 729 4815

WATCH THE WARRANTY


Not officially approved: Rude Mercs accessories



"If you have your Mercedes customised by AMG or Designo, which offers exotic interior, upholstery treatments, the work will be Mercedes approved and covered by the Mercedes-Benz one-year, unlimited mileage warranty," says a Mercedes spokesman.

"But beware of having anybody other than a franchised Mercedes Benz dealer tinker with your car's suspension, gearbox, drive train, engine or exhaust," the spokesman warns. "These will invalidate your warranty in the event of any subsequent faults."

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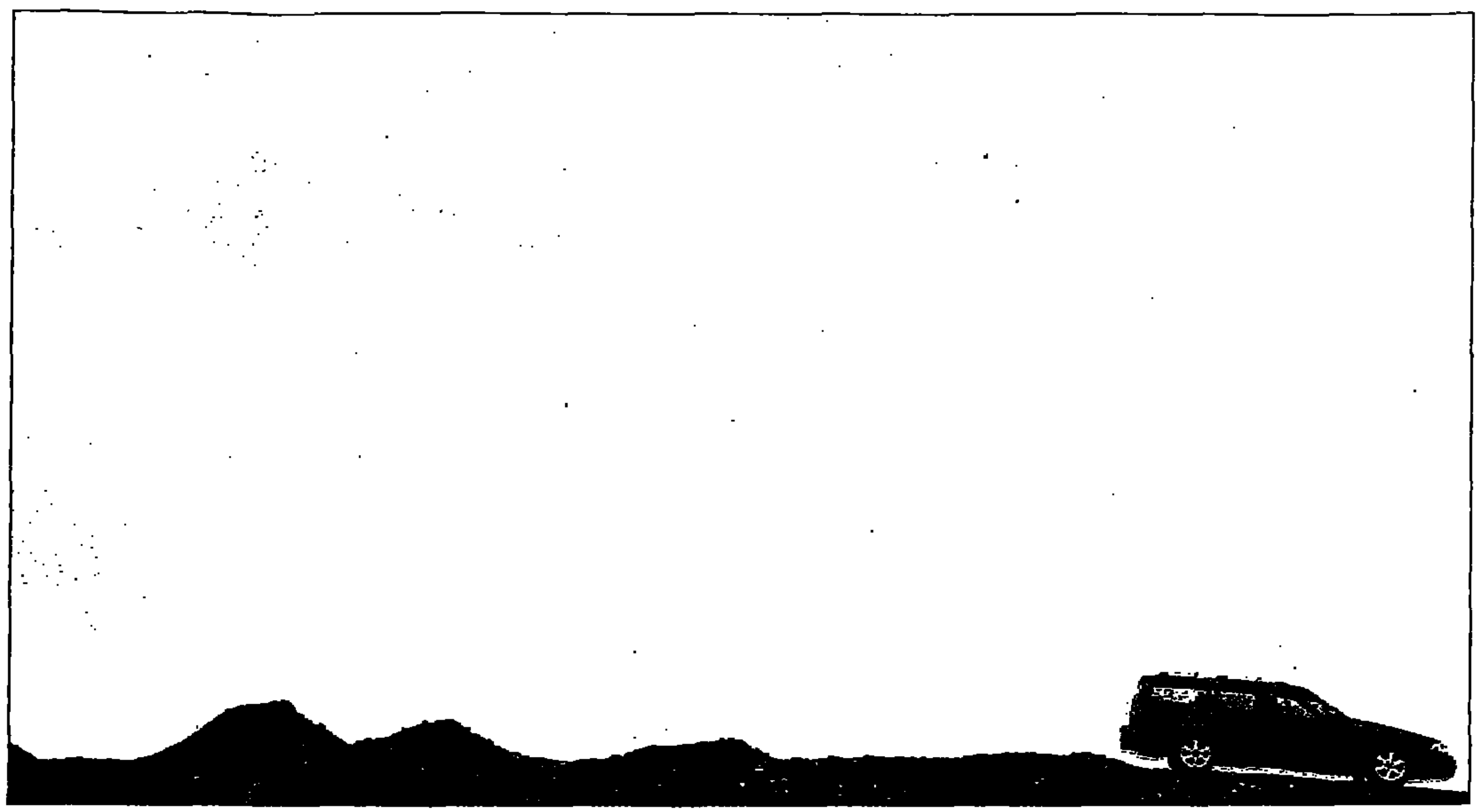
Volvo's walk on the wild side

Sweden is going rugged as it aims for the great outdoors sales, **Eve-Ann Prentice** says



While the view from the windows was of wild Alaskan landscape, the vehicle's well-appointed interior would suit a limousine in Oxford Street

The names on the map have a biblical resonance, places like Temptation Mountain, Deception Creek and Camp Robber Peak. In such a place as this you might feel the need for a tough and reliable vehicle, even more so when you realise that this is terrain which saw even the likes of Captain Cook get lost.

The 18th-century explorer set out in 1776 to find the Northwest Passage, only to discover a maritime dead-end. It was the coastal road here that marked the starting point of our drive to test Volvo's latest creation, the V70 XC.

The car, unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show, is designed to behave like a conventional front-wheel-drive vehicle on dry roads but switches automatically to four-wheel drive on slippery or rough roads.

"The main reason for this car is the growing interest in outdoor activities," says Peter Boison, Volvo's business concept manager. And there can be few places on earth catering more for outdoor activities than Alaska.

But even though America's 49th state, bought from Russia by William Seward for $7.2 million in 1867, is *huntin' shootin' and gold-diggin'* territory, there was a surprising dearth of rugged-looking vehicles on its roads, and the V70 XC drew curious stares almost everywhere we went.

With glacier-clad mountains swathed in cloud, and amid a steady Mancunian rain, we set off on a 260-mile trip round the estuaries and mountain ridges north of Anchorage. It was a mere nibble at Alaska's vastness, where 616,000 people can spread themselves across a state four times as large as Japan.

This is a land where bearded hulks spit tobacco juice contemptuously as they mull over life's mysteries, such as why anyone would want to curb the use of guns, and wizened gold-miners clutching phials of gold-dust pretend not to be too interested when they ask how much the new-born Volvo costs.

The contrast between the car's interior and the wild Alaskan landscape could hardly be greater. Ignore the view of the great outdoors and let the eyes linger on the vehicle's interior, and you could be in a limo in Oxford Street… electronically controlled seats, leather bolsters, state-of-the-art sound system, and varnished wood-effect trim. As a passenger, the ride is smooth and quiet. Even the change from six-lane highway to dirt track barely disturbs the comfort.

As a driver I found the V70 XC easy to manoeuvre and reassuringly road-hugging. Although Volvo is at pains to stress that this is not meant to be a true off-road vehicle, it coped so well with wet mud and grit for mile after mile of dirt track, it was almost tempting to turn off the beaten track and career across the rugged lower slopes of Alaska's great mountain ridges.

The car has three driving modes, all selected from easy-to-reach switches behind the automatic's gear selector — sports for higher performance, economy for better fuel consumption, and winter for slippery or icy conditions.

And with a five-cylinder, 2.5-litre, turbocharged engine that can push from 0-60mph in 8.5 seconds, and a top speed of 127mph, overtaking felt sure-footed and secure. Volvo is Latin for "I roll", but there was mercifully little pitching on the rough stuff despite 6.5 inches of ground clearance — 1in higher than the normal V70. And the extra height gives good visibility for shorter drivers such as me.

The car's ability to mastermind its switch from two to four-wheel drive will also make this a tempting choice for two-car families who want to heed John Prescott's advice to dispose of one of them: since there are no switches or knobs to manipulate to select two or four-wheel drive, all motorists in a given family will be able to drive it with ease. To make handling even more sure-footed, the V70 XC is always in four-wheel drive when reversing, while rear-wheel drive is disengaged during braking or downhill coasting to maximise brake performance.

Only automatic versions were available for the Alaska test, but manuals will also be on sale in Britain when the car goes on the market later this autumn. Volvo hopes to sell around 10,000 in Britain, at pennies less then £30,000.

Since the V70 XC is aimed at real or imagined outdoor types, there are a host of optional extras such as bike racks and dog cages. Space stays the same as the standard V70, with 37.1 cubic feet rising to 67 cubic feet with the rear seats folded down.

Driving back along the Seward Highway, it seemed a shame that the V70 XC will probably see more car parks than wildlife parks. "Most of these vehicles will probably be driven to downtown shopping malls," says Boison.

VOLVO V70 XC

Engine: 2.5-litre auto (2-litre manual forthcoming).
Performance: 0-60, 8.3 secs; top speed 127mph.
Economy: 31mpg extra-urban, 24.2mpg combined.
Equipment: Electric front seats and windows, CD player, front-seat airbags, cruise control.
Price: around £30,000.

LAND-SPEED RECORD UPDATE

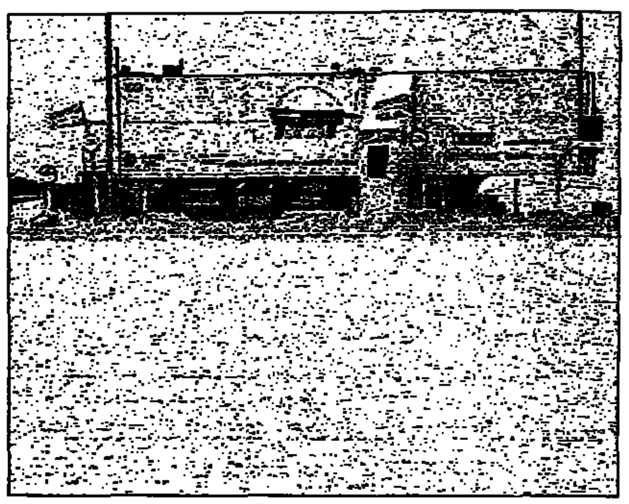
Wrong dust-up hits Thrust desert runs

AMID THE howling winds of a sandstorm on Wednesday, the finishing touches were being put to the Thrust SSC in preparation for some serious runs. The computer fault that prompted driver Andy Green to abort on Saturday was located — four letters of software code, which tell the on-board computer to recalculate if something is awry, were missing from the end of the program. As a result, when something did go awry on the second run, the computer crashed. The suspension has been readied, and metal flaps have been fitted on the rear wings to protect the parachute ropes from melting in the afterburner.

AFTER A rest day on Sunday, and a further day for minor modification, Thrust was supposed to run on Tuesday. However, winds of up to 50mph across the Black Rock Desert have thwarted the British team's plan. At the time this update went to press, there was still no word about when the car, which has clocked 624mph, would race on again. Green is confident, though, that the schedule to reach Mach I (about 750mph) within the next two weeks is viable. "Our next runs are Mach 0.82 and 0.85, and I know the car is going to perform," he said on Wednesday. He added that the team did not care about breaking the land speed record of 633 mph or about 700mph. "We are here to break the sound barrier."

THE SAME windy conditions have also set back the racing plan of Craig Breedlove, whose Spirit of America is in a trailer. Since a new engine was fitted, Breedlove has notched up 343mph. Unlike Green, Breedlove is going for 700mph. There is intense speculation over whether his car is stable enough. Breedlove has admitted that if he is not confident, he will send the car through the 700mph barrier using remote control. The decision has "seriously surprised" Richard Noble, head of the Thrust team, who insists this is a dangerous idea.

MOST PEOPLE are hoping that Breedlove will clinch 700mph to complete an impressive quartet (he was the first man through 400, 500 and 600mph). Breedlove, who dines on steak at the Black Rock Saloon Bar in Gerlach has impressed everyone with his quiet determination and gentle grace, even when being pestered by admirers. It is no secret that many members of the British team genuinely hope that their American rival cracks 700mph before they do.



Trailer camp: Thrust is kept sheltered from the storms

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